

Future leaders show potential
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A TOTAL of 150 young Malaysians between the ages of 18 and 25 vied for the Grand Prize in Perdana Leadership Foundation-MPH "Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders" Essay Competition between May and October 2010.

After a meticulous and lengthy adjudication process by a panel of judges led by Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Khoo Kay Kim, Tan Sri Hashim Makaruddin and Datuk Hardev Kaur, the winners of the competition were unveiled at a prizegiving ceremony recently.

Eric Lee Vui Loong from HELP University College won the grand prize of RM7,000, a netbook, an e-reader and MPH book vouchers worth RM500, while Koh Aun Qi from University of Sydney, Australia won the first prize of RM2,000, a netbook, an e-book reader and book vouchers worth RM300.



Eric receiving his prizes from Dr Mahathir.

Calvin Lee Eng Siong from Sunway University College and Chua Jack Yune from HELP won the second and third prizes respectively.

Thanks to Eric's win, his institution was awarded with a computer workstation (desktop computer and a printer-scanner) and books worth RM500.

Universiti Kuala Lumpur also won a computer workstation and RM500 worth of books for sending in the most number of entries.

Perdana Leadership Foundation's honorary president, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali were guests of honour at the event.

In his welcoming address, the foundation's Board of Trustees chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim encouraged young Malaysians to improve their command of the English language.

"In the private sector, Malaysians lacking in proficiency in the English language are severely handicapped. They will find it difficult to get jobs, promotions and advancement," he said.

Azman added that he was pleased to see that most of the entries were mostly written in English, with most of the reference material cited also in English.

On the entries received, Dr Khoo said: "The judges found that the quality of the submissions for this year's competition has improved somewhat, especially in terms of command of the English language, but was still wanting in aspects of critical analysis and originality."

Book donations by MPH to five schools and five orphanages also took place before the essay competition prize giving with Dr Siti Hasmah presenting the contributions. Each of the selected schools and orphanages received RM5,000 worth of books from the book chain.

The bi-ennial essay competition is organised by Perdana Leadership Foundation and MPH and is in its third run since 2006.

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