

Yayasan Sarawak World Style English Debate **Challenge Trophy 2008**

One of the highlights of UiTM Sarawak activities this semester was the jointly organised "Yayasan Sarawak World Style English Debate Challenge Trophy 2008" by UiTM and Yayasan Sarawak. The preliminary rounds were held at UiTM Sarawak from 20 to 21 August 2008 and the final was held on 26 August 2008 at Auditorium Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce, Institut Perguruan Bt. Lintang.

Ten universities from both private and public institutions of higher learning throughout Sarawak participated in the World Style Debate while twenty-two representatives from the universities contested in the public speaking competition, which were held concurrently.

With the objective of nurturing young people to converse confidently and effectively in the English Language as well as generating critical and creative thinking, it is hope that undergraduates who acquire these vitally important skills will sail through their studies without any difficulty.

The excitement started when the motion 'The use of food as biofuel should not be allowed in this government' was released to the four finalists i.e. UiTM Sarawak, Institut Perguruan Bt. Lintang, Swinburne Institute of Technology and University Malaysia Sarawak. All teams put up a good fight to outwit each other. However, it was Institut Perguruan Bt. Lintang represented by Yee Tsemin, Felicity Su Wong Ching Ching and Nurul Izyani Yaaccob, which took the Challenge Trophy plus RM4000.00. The first runner-up was Swinburne Institute of Technology, which received RM3000.00 while the second runner-up was UNIMAS 2, which received RM2000.00. The third runner-up was UiTM 1, receiving RM1000.00. Certificates were also awarded to all the winners.



Meanwhile, in the public speaking category, Unegbu Todnukwu O from INTI College and Stephen Obed Swai from Swinburne Institute of Technology battled to become the champion and the first runner-up respectively. They received RM200.00 and RM100.00 each. The second runner-up was Paul Racha of UiTM who received RM50.00.

When asked to comment on the debate, Trainer and Chief Adjudicator, Mr. Muhammad Abdul Latif from the International Islamic University described the debaters as having displayed good understanding of the motion. He also stated that they were able to express their thoughts well.

UiTM would like to express our gratitute to YB Dato Sri Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem, Chairman of Yayasan Sarawak for his presence and thought-provoking speech. Although YB Dato Sri Haji Adenan deliberated on a serious matter, he had entranced the crowd with his great sense of humour as he reminded the undergraduates to not only strive to be fluent speakers of English but also try to add humour and wit to spice up presentation so as to be considered linguistically competent and successful speakers. UiTM would also like to express our gratitute to YB Datin Hajah Fatimah Abdullah for gracing the occasion and giving away the prizes to the winners.

By Azlina Ghazali and Siniter Saba





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