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Kejohanan Catur Cilik UiTM 2024: Nurturing Young Minds Through Strategic Play

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kejohanan Catur Cilik UiTM 2024 was successfully organized by the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics, College of Computing, Informatics & Mathematics, UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan, Kampus Kuala Pilah, in collaboration with the Kuala Pilah District Education Office. The event aimed to cultivate interest and enhance chess-playing skills among primary school students aged 7 to 12 in the Kuala Pilah. The championship was held on 26 October 2024 at Dewan Anjung, UiTM Kuala Pilah attracting 93 participants from 32 schools, including children of UiTM Negeri Sembilan staff from the Kuala Pilah, Seremban, and Rembau campuses. The event was supported by several sponsors and volunteers, fostering a competitive yet educational environment. It successfully met its objectives of nurturing young talents, promoting strategic thinking, and building self-confidence among participants.

INTRODUCTION

The championship was organized to promote chess as an educational tool that enhances critical and strategic thinking skills among young students. The event specifically targeted primary school students in the Kuala Pilah to cultivate interest and improve chess-playing skills, while also exposing students to essential values such as planning, problem-solving, and sound decision-making.

The event was officiated by Mr. Rahmat Bin Ibrahim, the Assistant District Education Officer of Kuala Pilah from the Talent Development Unit. The competition was sponsored by Klinik Arafah, Poliklinik Ayrish, and Milenia Mortgage Resources, with invaluable assistance from Mr. Radi Azahan Bin Razali, students from UiTM Kuala Pilah Campus, and members of the Cybermath Club in organizing and supporting various activities throughout the championship. The competition took place over six rounds, starting at 8:00 AM and ending at 5:30 PM.



Figure 1 : Participant registration at Dewan Anjung, UiTM Kuala Pilah.



Figure 2 : Participants pose for a picture before the competition begin.



Figure 3 : Participants under-12 girl category during the match.



Figure 4 : Participants under-12 boys category during the match.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The tournament featured intense competition among participants, showcasing the young talents' strategic thinking and problem-solving abilities. The results were as follows:

- Under-12 Boys Category:
 Champion: Nilesan A/L Balachandran from Sekolah Kebangsaan Yamtuan Antah
 Second Place: Muhammad Umar Hadziq Bin Syaifulnizam from Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Pilah.
 Third Place: Muhammad Haris Aiman Bin Mohd Ridzuan from Sekolah Kebangsaan Padang Lebar.
- Under-12 Girls Category:
 Champion: Afiqah Nur Husna Binti Mohd Azhar from Sekolah Kebangsaan Tunku Munawir
 Second Place: Nur Mia Danisyah Binti Mohd Shahedan from Sekolah Kebangsaan Dato' Inas.
 Third Place: Siti Aura Mahfuzah Binti Nur Azli from Sekolah Kebangsaan Ulu Bendul.

In addition to the competitive aspect, the event offered participants the opportunity to engage in friendly matches, attend chess strategy workshops, and interact with experienced chess players, enhancing their educational experience. Parents and teachers appreciated the program, observing its role in building concentration skills and self-confidence among students. Some parents recommended organizing similar tournaments frequently to encourage continuous improvement in chess skills.



Figure 5 : Award presentation and closing ceremony

CONCLUSION

The Kejohanan Catur Cilik UiTM 2024 successfully achieved its objectives of discovering young talents, building self-confidence, instilling discipline, and fostering strategic thinking among students. It not only promoted chess as a valuable educational tool but also provided a platform for young players to showcase their skills and develop sportsmanship. The event was well-received by participants, parents, and educators alike, with many praising its positive impact on students' cognitive and social development.

The championship also played a crucial role in encouraging healthy competition and promoting a culture of intellectual growth among young minds. It is hoped that this initiative will continue in the future, offering more students the opportunity to enhance their chess skills, build meaningful friendships, and grow in confidence.