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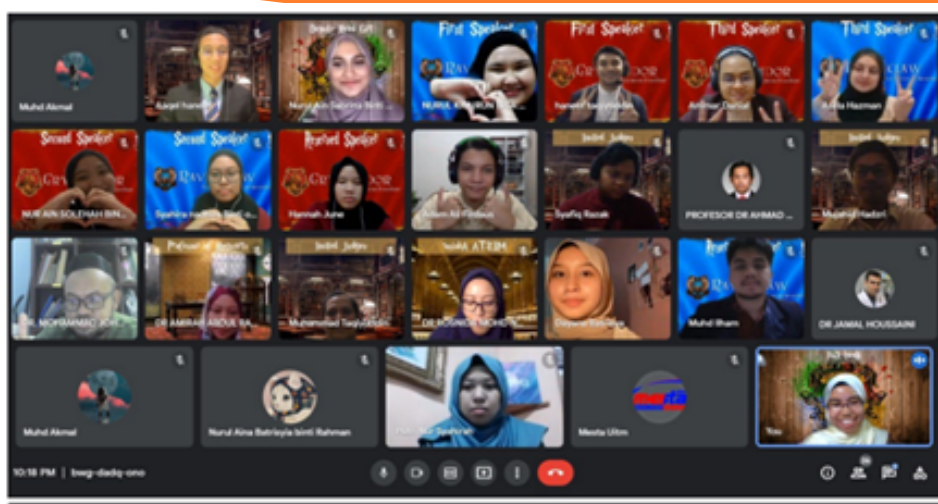
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ANNUAL INTERBATCH DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP



MOST AWAITED PROGRAM

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After being delayed for almost two months, the most awaited program finally took place in July 2021. The Annual Interbatch Debate Championship (IBD) was held for three consecutive weeks and ended on the 30th of July. The program was organized by the Exco Diplomatic of Medical Student Association (MESTA). The theme for this year's Interbatch Debate Championship was Harry Potter, and each group was named after the 4 Harry Potter houses Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff, and Slytherin.

Initially, the program was set to convene in January 2021, but the date of the program was moved forward due to busy schedules and overlapping classes/ exams.

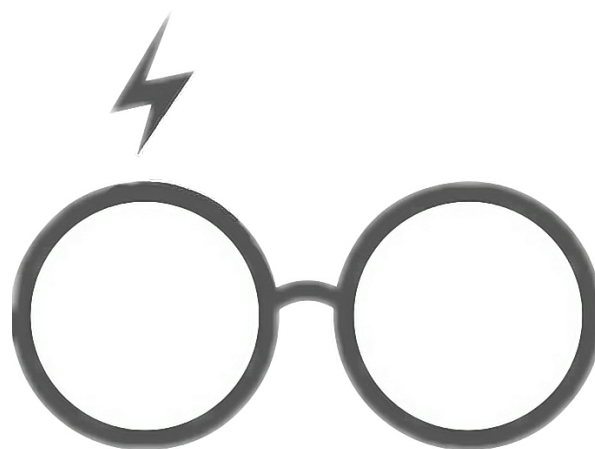
The program's main objectives include producing scholars who can think rationally, intellectually, and critically. The program also aims to increase students' ability to converse in English fluently and encourage students to voice their opinions in a proper manner. The debate was broadcast live on YouTube for every round. Students from preclinical years came by and watched the debate and filled the comments section supporting their group of choice.



On the 12th of July, the opening ceremony and the first round of the debate were held, and it was being broadcast live on MESTA's YouTube channel. The second and third rounds were held on the 14th and 16th, respectively. A week later, on the 29th, the semifinal round took place. This round was where Gryffindor went against Slytherin for the second time to determine who would go to the finals. On the 30th, the most anticipated round of all, the final round took place. The two groups that managed to get into the final round were Gryffindor and Ravenclaw. At the end of the night, Ravenclaw was crowned the winner of this year's Interbatch Debate Championship.



As one of the debaters, I would say that the motion given out was a pretty challenging but fascinating topic to be discussed. As for me personally, the two most challenging motions would be "this house believes that the organ donation system in Malaysia should be changed to an opt-out system" and "this house believes that the contract system for the juniors doctor should remain."



Last but not least, in conclusion, this 5th Interbatch Debate Championship was a successful one despite a few hiccups along the way. According to the committee members, even though the number of participants was unpleasant as they were hoping for more students to join, they were glad that everyone did well and that no sensitive issue arose. They also wish that more students will be able to join the next Interbatch Debate Championship.