

Malaysia' Top Spellers Conquer Words

Kuala Lumpur, 8 August 2009: The search for the best Primary and Secondary spellers in the country ended today at the RHB-New Straits Times National Spell-It-Right challenge.

The contest saw 14 State Champions battle it out to become the national primary and secondary winners.

This morning, 28 State Champions (14 Primary and 14 Secondary) pitted their skills against their peers in a show of spelling prowess, the culmination of a little more than three months of state-level competitions.

The event was attended by more than 350 supporters including teachers and parents from all states. YAB Deputy Prime Minister was represented by YB. Datuk Dr. Haji Puad Zarkashi, the Deputy Minister of Education and Tan Sri Dato' Haji Alimuddin Haji Mohd Dom, the Director General of Education. Tan Sri Azlan Zainol, Chairman of RHB Bank Berhad, Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan, Chairman of The New Straits Times Press (M) Berhad, Dato' Tajuddin Atan, Group Managing Director of the RHB Banking Group, Dato' Anthony Bujang, Chief Executive Officer of NSTP, and Encik Zainul Arifin Mohamed Isa, the Group Managing Editor of NSTP, were also present at the event.

All finalists received a Digital Frame courtesy of the New Straits Times while the top three winners in both categories each received a cash prize, laptop and trophy respectively. The top three winning schools also received cash prizes, laptops and trophies.

"We are very pleased to be able to work with NST on this project for the second year running. We hope it will be a long-term relationship that will bring more enhancements to this Corporate Responsibility initiative. This competition has created a buzz among the Malaysian public, so it's also nice to see new faces as this year's final, to see more and more students, parents and teachers get excited about this competition. They have learned a lot of new words through SIR that they would not normally have used on a daily basis, and we have met our objective of bringing up an interest in learning and enhancing vocabulary," said Norazzah Sulaiman, Chief Operating Officer of RHB Capital Berhad.

The RHB New Straits Times National Spell-It-Right Challenge 2009 attracted independent learners who enjoy a competitive environment and want to have fun with the language.

The contest is aimed at challenging young Malaysians on their verbal and intellectual prowess in mastering English and raising the bar in its usage.

The competition managed to attract 370 secondary schools and 248 primary schools from all states with 2,472 contestants.

About RHB-New Straits Times Spell-It-Right Challenge 2009

The second edition of this nationwide spelling competition is jointly organised by the New Straits Times and RHB Banking Group as a corporate social responsibility exercise. Its objectives are to encourage the usage of English in a fun way and to promote the use of the newspaper as an educational tool.

The competition only accepts British English spelling. The standard reference text for the competition is the Oxford Advanced Learners – New 7th Edition. It is only open to government-funded schools and is divided into two categories; Category 1 for Primary Schools (Year 1 to Year 6) and Category 2 for Secondary Schools (Form 1 to Form 5).

There are 2 challenge stages; State Challenge and National Challenge. In the State Challenge, students will undergo preliminary elimination rounds before qualifying for the state final round where they will compete for the State Champion title. The school that accumulates the most points will be declared the winning school. At the National Challenge, the 14 State Champions will compete for the National Champion title.

The spelling competition offers prizes worth more than RM200,000.00. Top three individual winners and winning schools will receive attractive prizes and certificates. At the National Challenge, the winning school (first prize winner only) for both categories will take home the Challenge Trophy.

The 2008 edition received tremendous response from parents, teachers and students. It attracted 283 secondary schools and 207 primary schools from all states and featured 1,959 student contestants. Adik Bessima Jamal from SMK Lok Yuk Likas, Sabah and Adik Victor Teoh of SK Bukit Damansara were named the National Champion for secondary and primary category respectively.



News Room

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