

Wildlife conservation from young

STARTING EARLY: Winners of the Raja Zarith Sofiah Defenders of Wildlife Challenge 2013 were judged on their creativity and organisation of wildlife awareness week

NST 6/06/2014
m/s : 2

CHUAH BEE KIM
JOHOR BARU
johor@nst.com.my

SIX prospective Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) candidates of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Sri Gading, Batu Pahat, will be visiting London, England, after they emerged winners in the Raja Zarith Sofiah Wildlife Defenders Challenge 2013 recently.

SMK Sri Gading beat SMK Ayer Baloi, Pontian won second place while SMK Bandar Putra, Kulaijaya won third place in the secondary school category.

In the Institute of Higher Learning category, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) emerged the winner, while the team from Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) secured second place. The UTM team also won a trip to London.

For the primary school category, the pupils of Sekolah Kebangsaan Bandar Pontian secured the top spot after beating SK Canossian Convent,

Kluang (second place) and SK Bandar Baru Uda 2, Tampoi (third place). The winners will be visiting the Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre in Sepilok, Sabah.

A total of 27 schools ranging from national to primary schools and higher education institutions took part in the event.

The winners were judged by their creativity in designing T-shirts related to the wildlife theme, and making multimedia presentations as well as organising wildlife awareness week at their schools.

The Sri Gading team who formed the group Wildlife Avengers is set to visit London from June 16 to 20.

Among the places that they will visit include the London Zoo, London Wetland Centre and the Natural History Museum.

Wildlife Avengers leader Nurazreen Hamzah, 17, said that it had been an exciting experience for members of the group to be able to spread awareness on environmental conservation and wildlife.

Nurazreen said that the programme had helped in fostering leadership qualities as it allowed the group to organise a variety of activities ranging from campaigning to staging exhibitions at the school.

"We are looking forward to exploring London.

"We also feel honoured that the consort of the Sultan, Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah, was at the closing ceremony to present the prizes to us," said Nurazreen, adding that the winners are grateful to Johor Corporation (JCorp) for organising the event through its subsidiary Kulim (Malaysia) Bhd.

The winners of each category received prizes of RM5,000 (winner), RM3,000 (second place winner) and RM2,000 (third).

Page 1 pic: The Raja Zarith Sofiah Wildlife Defenders Challenge 2013 primary school category winners **SK Bandar Pontian** with their award at Galleria@Kotaraya.



Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah and JCorp chief executive Datuk Kamaruzzaman Abu Kassim launching 'Looking Beyond Oil Palms Sustaining Ecology' at the closing ceremony. Pic by Zulkarnain Ahmad Tajuddin