



Our boy wins award in London

Malaysia's representative at a global public speaking competition did not disappoint for he came home a winner.

THEVESH Thevananthan who represented Malaysia at the English Speaking Union (ESU) International Public Speaking Competition held in London, the United Kingdom, has won the Audience Choice World Champion award.

"I am the first Malaysian male to win an award at the international competition" he shared.

Thevesh is also the second Malaysian to win the award based on the number of votes he attained from the audience, after Wong Xiao Qing in 2004.

Xiao Qing who represented Malaysia at the competition in 2004, clinched the Best Non-Native English Speaker as well as the Audience Choice awards.

Fifth former Thevesh who is from SMK Bukit Jambul, Penang won over the judges' hearts with his wit and charm, when he emerged as champion in *The Star-ESU Malaysia-PKT Logistics Public Speaking Competition 2013*.

Victorious: It was Thevesh's skills and engaging personality that earned him the award.



Thevesh's mother, Asha Suresh Chand shared earlier how her son had been exposed to public speaking from a young age.

She said as a toastmaster, she had allowed him to follow her to attend her sessions and meetings.

Asha also encouraged her son to take part in school competitions so that he would have the poise and confidence on stage.

Thevesh recalled being part of the

audience in a local ESU competition when he was 12.

"At the competition in London, I made it from the heats, semi-finals and into the grand final.

"I delivered my speech entitled 'This One's For Us'," he said.

Thevesh described the other 54 competitors as "mind-blowingly good".

"The competition was amazing and I still can't believe that I even made it past the heats and semis, much less won the audience over in the grand final," he added.

Thevesh was thankful to everyone who helped him and is particularly grateful to his parents.

"If I have the audacity to dream and fly, it is because they let me stand on their shoulders and reach for the sky," he said.

He also thanked *The Star*, ESU Malaysia, ESU, HSBC and PKT Logistics for making his dreams come true.

BY PRIYA KULASAGARAN
educate@thestar.com.my

New varsity, the result of UM's foreign tie-up

UNIVERSITI Malaya (UM) has teamed up with the University of Wales in the United Kingdom (UK) to form a new private university.

The International University of Malaya-Wales (IUMW) will offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses and opens for its first intake in August.

UM vice-chancellor Prof Tan Sri Dr Ghauth Jasmon said the new university would provide more opportunities for undergraduate study as UM itself had decided to focus more on its research endeavours.

"We currently have about 13,000 students in UM, with an almost equal number of undergraduates and postgraduates.

"Over the years, we will continue to increase the number of postgraduates ... it is important for us as a research university, to improve our capability in producing graduates beyond the undergraduate level.

"The Government itself has a target of 60,000 PhD graduates by 2020, and we only have 25,000 right now.

"It (the setting up of IUMW) is to ensure that we do not deprive Malaysians looking for quality education at the undergraduate level," he said at the IUMW campus in Jalan Tun Ismail, Kuala Lumpur, recently.

Prof Ghauth added that IUMW's fees were competitive, and the institution would help

entice more international students to study in the country.

"Of course you cannot compare the new varsity's fees to that of UM's because almost 90% of our course fees are subsidised by the government.

"With the brand name of UM and the University of Wales, we're hoping to attract more international students especially those from the UK," he said.

In May last year, deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Hou Kok Chung had announced that UM, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Mara had been allowed to tie up with private institutions so that they could generate their own income and reduce their dependence on public funding.

Dr Hou had announced that each institution would be operated by a "dedicated subsidiary" and its management would be separate from the public university concerned.

IUMW president Prof Dr Hamzah Abdul Rahman said five courses in the fields of social science and business had been approved so far, with six more "close to approval".

"It will cost just over RM30,000 for Malaysians pursuing three-year degree programmes, while the foundation courses in

the sciences and arts are just over RM10,000 for a full-year programme.

"The foundation programmes will enable students to enter undergraduate study at our university or other selected universities.

"We are also working with the British Council to make the institution one of the centres in Malaysia, where the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examinations can be held," he said.

Meanwhile, University of Wales associate pro-chancellor Prof Simon Haslett said all students will also have the option to receive a dual award from both IUMW and the University of Wales.

"The standards at IUMW will be the same as that of the University of Wales and UM ... but students can opt to pay a little extra to receive a second award from the University of Wales," he said.



Prof Ghauth (right) and Prof Haslett are keen to maintain standards and entice both local and international students to IUMW.



Information EVENING

Monday 10 June 7.30 – 9.30 pm
Shangri-La Hotel, 11 Jalan Sultan Ismail, Kuala Lumpur

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