

# The results are out!



After hours of preparation and nerve-wracking moments on stage, the list of finalists is out; who will win and go on to represent Malaysia in public speaking in London?



**Poised:** Kaberi is one of the finalists who will be competing for a chance to represent the nation next month.



**Speaking his mind:** Jeffrey Johan delivers his five-minute prepared speech on the given theme "Ideas Are Our Greatest Weapons."

IT'S final; 12 students from across Malaysia have made it to the grand finals of The Star-English Speaking Union (ESU) Malaysia Public Speaking Competition 2013.

The finalists are Ai-Leen Loo Shu Jen, Anne Marie Lazarus, Caryl Teh En-Ai, Jeffrey Johan Adlan Disney, Jesline Tang Chia Ling, Kaberi Dutta, Mahdev Singh Sachdev, Nursyazana Syifaa Kahardy, Ong Jo Xing, Rhupashree Magandiran, Say Wei Chen and Thevesh Thevananthan.

They will compete for the coveted title of champion and will go through a Champions Training Camp in Petaling Jaya before representing the nation at the ESU International Public Speaking Competition 2013 in London next month.

The national champion will receive public speaking training from experts, visit beauti-

ful sights in London including Dartmouth House (home of the ESU) and become an alumnus of one of the oldest and most prestigious organisations in the world.

The first runner-up will win RM1,000 cash, the second runner-up RM500 cash and the rest of the finalists will receive RM100 cash each.

The competition tests the verbal prowess of students and aims to promote the use of English among secondary and tertiary level students besides nurturing their confidence in public speaking.

Through the years, it has also complemented the government's efforts in increasing English Language proficiency among the young, cultivated an interest in public speaking and help local students become more competitive internationally.

Until today, the competition continues to draw interest among young Malaysians as it provides the ideal platform for them to speak up and express their views.

Prior to the competition, training workshops were held simultaneously in Menara Star, Petaling Jaya and Star Northern Hub, Penang.

In the preliminary round, participants had to present a five-minute prepared speech on the theme "A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand" and a three-minute impromptu speech on topics given 15 minutes in advance.

Participants who qualified for

the semi-finals were required to speak for five minutes on the theme "Ideas Are Our Greatest Weapons".

Contestants were judged on the substance of their speech, style and technique, general effectiveness and the ability to answer questions from the panel of judges.

Also taken into consideration were the speaker's body language, facial expressions and self-confidence.

Last year, Malaysian contestant Marina Tan Hsien Wei, 18, made history when she emerged champion in the ESU International Public Speaking Competition in London.

It was the nation's first win of one of the most coveted titles in the world's English public speaking circuit.

The Malaysian segment of the competition is jointly organised by *The Star* and the English Speaking Union of Malaysia, with PKT Logistics Group Sdn Bhd as the co-organiser.

For those keen on catching the excitement at the grand finals on April 27, entrance fee is RM60 per pax inclusive of refreshments.

For enquiries, contact *The Star* Events Department at 03-7967 1388 ext 1240/1237.

## Only eight more challenges



By JEANNETTE GOON educate@thestar.com.my

SIX down, eight to go. With the conclusion of the RHB-The Star Mighty Minds Kedah state challenge in Alor Setar Mall, the competition has made its way through almost half the states in the nation.

While some students began preparations at the beginning of the year and aimed to win, others made their way to the competition unprepared and emerged

surprised champions. Which formula will work at the finals? Should the students take a break and just think on their feet? Or should they start preparations soon?

Taking place in October, the champions from each state will make their way to Kuala Lumpur to battle it out.

National champs in the upper secondary category will have more to look forward to – a trip to the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in Ireland,

sponsored by Penang Medical College.

Jointly organised by Star Publications (M) Bhd and RHB Banking Group, the state challenges will take place next in Kelantan, followed by Sarawak and Kuala Lumpur.

If you are a secondary school student in any of these states, it may not be too late to sign up.

To find out more, contact *The Star's* Customer Care Unit at 03-7967 1777/1703 or visit [www.thestar.com.my/mightyminds](http://www.thestar.com.my/mightyminds).

**Deep in thought:** During the multiple choice quiz held at a recent state challenge, many students had their thinking caps on as they pondered the solutions.

### Sarawak



#### Hands-On Challenge Questions

##### Lower Secondary Situation:

Empty egg cartons or egg trays are often thrown away. Some creative housewives however, use them to make containers which double up as jewellery boxes, ice-makers and seed starters.

Design an innovative model that offers a creative solution as to how empty egg cartons or trays can be put to good use in a school library.

##### List of some of the materials and apparatus provided:

One 30-egg empty carton, two 10-egg empty plastic egg trays, some straws, some plasticine, a black mounting board (50cm x 38cm), a manila card (55cm x 35cm), some backdated newspaper, two paper cups, two paper plates, a set of chopsticks, a length of thread, some string, red and green crepe paper and some coloured paper.

##### Upper Secondary Situation:

It is not easy to iron large rectangular sheets such as curtains, bed sheets and the Indian saree without creasing it as it drapes over the conventional ironing board.

Design an innovative model that offers a creative solution for this problem.

##### List of some of the materials and apparatus provided:

Two bobbins, 20 skewers, some rubber bands, two sets of disposable chopsticks, a sheet of transparency paper, some straws, two toilet tissue roll cores, two cashier receipt roll cores, a square of cardboard, a bundle of straws, a black mounting board (50cm x 38cm), a manila card (50cm x 35cm), a portion of plasticine and a length of thread.

##### NOTE:

The materials and apparatus provided are simple, economical and disposable items. Since this is a competition, be prepared to be flexible in your innovation because some of the items listed may be removed or replaced. New ones may also be added on.

You are not allowed to bring in any materials or apparatus of your own. On the day of the competition, only the 10 teams for each category in the Multiple Choice Question Challenge will be eligible to be given ONE hour to build their model in the Hands-On Challenge.