



Well done: Dr Nagiah, Nawal Lyana, Mirosha, Lee and Moh following the students' win at the Asian English Olympics.

Speaking their way to awards

THREE students from Sunway performed well at the Asian English Olympics (AEO) held in Jakarta.

Taking part in the competition in the Speech category, Mirosha Somasundram, 23, emerged as champion and won an additional Award for Best Humorous Speech.

Out of the 77 speakers in this category, Lee Seng Zhen came in sixth and Nawal Lyana was ranked 33.

The AEO this year attracted more than 500 participants from

South Korea, China, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos and Malaysia to compete in seven different categories namely debate, speech, spelling bee, short story writing, news casting, Scrabble and storytelling. The goal of the AEO for the past five years has been to improve the English skills of the participants and provide the youth with meaningful experiences whilst broadening their network throughout Asia. The theme of the event was "Radiate Your Light".

Currently pursuing an Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales professional certificate at Sunway College, Mirosha found the experience to be a challenging. Her speech 'Light in Darkness' was crafted around her failures in college and in her studies. Her speech which won the Humorous award was entitled 'Face Problem'. It addressed her inability to hide her feelings and thoughts from showing up in her facial expressions.

Lee, 20, currently a second year student in Accounting and

Finance at Sunway University said he enjoyed competing against the other Asian students. He had fun getting to know the other students from Asia and managed to get a glimpse of life in Jakarta.

Nawal Lyana who is an Association of Chartered Certified Accountants student, said it provided her with a rare chance to step out of her comfort zone.

All three students were under the guidance of Assoc Prof Dr Nagiah Ramasamy and Jonathan Moh Jun Han, past presidents and currently teacher advisors of the Sunway University Toastmasters Club.

Moh who accompanied the students to Jakarta, said the team was coached using peer evaluation to help refine each individual's speech.

Dr Nagiah who chartered the Sunway University Toastmasters Club with Toastmasters International in 2012, played a role in helping prepare the students for the competition by listening to their speeches and highlighting areas for improvement.

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