SMK USJ 13 FIELDS YET ANOTHER WINNING TEAM

NATIONWIDE: Sarawak student emerges as top individual contestant

A TEAM from SMK USJ 13, Subang Jaya, emerged as champion in this year’s MIA-Sunway TES Accounting Quiz (AQ 2015).

Last year’s winning team also came from SMK USJ 13, so the celebration was extra sweet for the school.

Meanwhile, SMK Saint Elizabeth (M) Sibu, Sarawak, produced this year’s individual winner.

A total of 10 teams from eight schools competed as finalists in the AQ 2015 which was held in Sunway College, Bandar Sunway, recently.

The teams hailed from five States, namely Selangor (6) and one each from Kedah, Negri Sembilan, Perak and Sarawak.

Each team comprised five members.

Since the competition began last March, some 500 teams from more than 150 schools around the country took part in the various qualifying rounds.

Team Athena’s Berries from SMK USJ 13 emerged as the champion under the Team Category.

Team Min Min of SM Sin Min in Kg Petani, Kedah, was the first runner-up while Team Eliza ACCA of SMK Saint Elisabeth (M) Sibu, Sarawak, was the second runner-up.

Rounding off the top 10 teams were Team Battle of M.P.M.S Lanjung from Perak; Team Science Stream from SMK USJ 13, Teams Give Me 5 and SEVENTEEN, both of SMK USJ 13, Team The Underdogs of SMK Damansara Jaya and Team We Love ACC of SMK Bandar Puchong Jaya.

Nicholas Ng Zhi Hao, team leader of Athena’s Berries, said they had to work extra hard to live up to the expectation of winning after their seniors took home the top prize last year.

“It’s a fantastic feeling to be able to continue bringing glory and honour to our school,” he said.

Ng and his team mates are from the Science stream. However, as they are also classmates, it was easy for them to hold discussions as and when they could.

The 2015 winning teams.

“We worked extremely hard, including staying back after school, to drill on the accounting questions,” he said.

The students worked tirelessly for the win, and have certainly made the school proud of their achievement,” she said.

On my part, I would help to answer their queries whenever they encountered problems during their research and preparation, since they are Science stream students, she said.

“I would also continuously provide guidance and support to help bring out the best in them.”

The top three winning teams and individuals received scholarships and financial assistance worth more than RM20,000 to study accountancy at Sunway College.

Sunway Education Group and Sunway University senior executive director Dr Elizabeth Lee said that young people like to be challenged, so organising competitions for specific subjects was a way of stoking their interest and awareness.

“Studying by itself can be a tedious process, but quizzes can challenge students to think and learn more effectively,” she said.

The competition’s final event was graced by Mohd Anuar Abdul Hamid, senior principal assistant director for the co-curricular and arts division, Ministry of Education.

Mohd Anuar said that competitions like this one were useful in motivating students to explore different fields of study which in turn would allow them to better gauge their interests and help them in their career decisions later.

He asked the parents and teachers to let the children do what they want and allow them to make their own decisions.

“That way, they will be more committed in their pursuits,” he said.

He added that taking part in competitions was not just about winning but also experiencing the collaborative process and learning to work with others.

“Such outside activities bring to life the concepts that are being taught in the classroom,” he said.

Also present at the event were Lee, Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) chief executive officer Ho Foong Moi, Sunway TES executive director Teo Ee Seng, MIA member development & education director Siew Wai San, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants Malaysia head David Chin and Sunway TES Centre for Accountancy Excellence director Lim Thean Cheong.

He said it was important for the students to realise that accountants are more than just number-crunchers.

“They play a strategic role in organisations as their ability to interpret and provide useful insights into data would serve to reveal numerous business opportunities,” she said.

Accountants therefore have to understand the mechanism of business and develop their skills in leadership and communications.”

She added that with the establishment of the Asean Economic Community, accountants who are always in demand in Malaysia will also have more opportunities to work elsewhere in the region.

Siew said that MIA has been working with industry players to ensure that students would be readily employed after their graduation.

“Our Structured Internship Programme, in collaboration with TalentCorp, is open to Malaysian students pursuing accounting degree (or equivalent) with the intention of enabling interns to gain relevant work experience,” she said.

“We are especially encouraging the participation of small and medium accountancy practices to join the programme, as there are also students who prefer to work in such firms.”

AQ 2015 was jointly organised by MIA and Sunway TES.

The event was supported by the Education Ministry, while ACCA Malaysia was the strategic partner.

The competition, which was open to all Forms Four and Five students, was first held in 2013.

AQ is aimed at exposing and garnering interest among secondary students in learning and gaining knowledge about the accounting field and the accountancy profession.
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