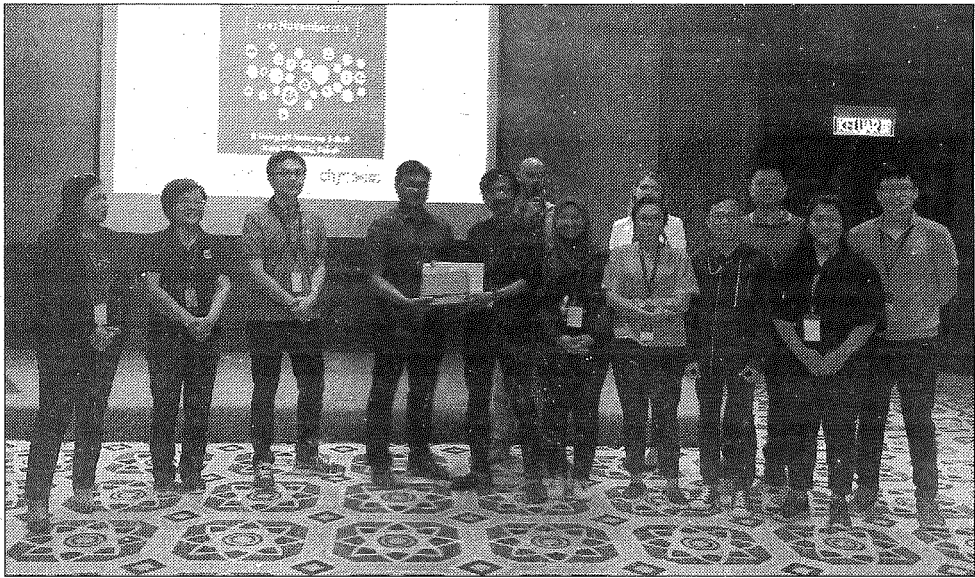


# Jakarta team beat out 100 others to win Zoohackathon



Lintang (5th left) receiving the prize from Asri (4th left) as his team looks on.  
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 By VESTA VANESSA JSOL

**KOTA KINABALU:** A new innovative solution, 'Pangolin', was developed at Sabah's first Zoohackathon to fight against threats to wildlife.

Developed by Navy Pangolin, a group of young programmers and analysts from Jakarta in their 20s, the innovation has won the Sabah, Sarawak and Kalimantan 2019 Zoohackathon which was held at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) on November 2-3.

They won a RM2,000 cash prize as well as a chance to compete against other Zoohackathon finalists globally.

On Sunday, the closing ceremony was officiated by Director of UMS Information Technology and Communication Department, Prof. Ag Asri Ag Ibrahim. Also present was Environment, Science and Technology Officer of the United States Embassy, William Follmer.

Team leader, Lintang Adyuta Sutawika, said that their creation is meant to help automatically collect numerous wildlife data from published new articles, according to the keywords keyed in such as 'pangolin'.

"Researchers or organisations don't have to read every pieces of news and put it in the Excel sheet.

"The result provides infor-

mation about what kind of wildlife that is endangered the most and who is the culprit behind the problem – in our case, we took pangolins as our subject."

Speaking at the closing ceremony, he noted that the idea was triggered by the difficulties faced by the currently labour intensive work to compile data.

Another member of the group, Nuruliawati added that there was thousands of news that needed to be read through. "It took so much time and hard work."

Navy Pangolin will be judged with 14 other regional winners, with results to be announced in December. Winning teams at world level are expected to be announced in January.

The world level winners will win a prize and potentially receive support to further develop and deploy their solution.

Among other cities to host Zoohackathon 2019 are Gaborone (Botswana), Moscow (Russia), Geneva (Switzerland), Helsinki (Finland), Sao Paulo (Brazil), Hong Kong (China), Quezon City (Philippines) and San Diego in the US.

Meanwhile, second place was won by Ranger and third place Sarawak Advent who received RM1,000 and RM500 respectively.

Consolation prizes went to Binary, Wo-men and

Code4W.

These coders, designers, conservation experts and technologists successfully created a new application aimed at seeking solutions to the crisis of global wildlife trafficking.

Earlier in his speech, Asri noted that around 100 participants from Sabah, Sarawak and Kalimantan gathered for the Zoohackathon to develop technological tools to fight wildlife trafficking.

Throughout the event, participants addressed issues concerning wildlife includes pangolin, orang utans, sun bears and pygmy elephants, among other types of endangered wildlife.

Initially a project supported by the US government's Task Force on Combating Wildlife Trafficking, William explained that Zoohackathon has now grown throughout the world to engage developers, designers, project managers, and subject matter experts to create applications, systems, and tools to help to solve real and existing problems.

"Zoohackathon solutions can also take the form of websites, mobile apps, website extensions, online databases and software.

"The US is proud to partner with the energetic young Malaysians and Indonesians on such a critically important endeavour."