

UMS Team Strives to Excel at the Putrajaya Floria 2013

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TUESDAY, 09 JULY – The Putrajaya Floria Festival is an annual national programme organised by the Putrajaya Corporation to promote the diversity and beauty of flora and fauna in Malaysia. This programme attracts both local and international communities alike every year. Recently, this programme was held at Taman Putrajaya at Precinct 2 with various activities relating to the world of horticulture and landscape.

With an interesting theme title ‘Orchids: Tropical Treasure’, the organising of this Floria attracted many visitors even though the weather around Putrajaya was hazy and the air quality poor. This year this event was participated by many government bodies including private

organisations vying for the many awards and prizes. Among the participants were local authorities, corporate bodies, individual companies, universities and schools.

Many entries were received from universities and other higher learning colleges but only ten universities or colleges would be receiving the cash incentive of RM5,000.00 from the Putrajaya Corporation thus able to showcase their ability and creativity to the visitors. Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) through the School of Sustainable Agriculture (SPL) once again was chosen as one of the recipients of this cash incentive to participate in the University Garden Category. The objective of SPL students participating in the competition this time was to increase their soft skills especially in inventions and building a practical garden, dynamic and established. Besides, their participation would also help to promote UMS and its academic curriculum nationally especially in the field of agriculture.

SPL students participation especially from the Horticulture and Landscape Programme was seen as a way to expose them to the aspects of management and the building of a beautiful and sustainable garden. With their theme ‘Orchids: The Wonderful Secrets Revealed’, this year UMS team built a garden that attracted many visitors because of its uniqueness. UMS team created a garden inspired by a beautiful holiday home with a tropical concept and a lavish spa capturing the imagination of this diverse community, resting their minds while searching for peace.

The air element, bamboo lights and an amazing landscape built by the UMS team itself won the hearts of the judges and was presented with two awards namely ‘Floria Garden Starlight Award’ and ‘Floria Garden Creative Award’.

According to SPL’s Dean, Dr. Sitti Raehanah Muhammad Shaleh, this win not only elevated UMS’ name at the competition but also the School of Sustainable Agriculture in the field of agriculture especially in the horticulture and landscape specialty. They wished to thank the Putrajaya Corporation for organising such event.

Also sharing in their success was SPL Head of Programme for Horticulture and Landscape, Dr. Jupikely James Silip who believed that the field of design and garden creativity would help motivate other students to be an all-round and