

M'sian students bag five awards in Shell Eco-Marathon Asia

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KOTA KINABALU: Students from five local universities did the country proud at the recent Shell Eco-Marathon Asia 2012, bagging five awards in five different categories.

Team UMech from University Malaya (UM) contributed the first award for Malaysia after finishing second in the Prototype (Hydrogen) category, recording 89.1 km/kWh behind NP Distanza-Proto of Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore who recorded 112.0 km/kWh.

Team USM-EVT from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) took the special "Eco-Design Award" for its biodegradable and eco-friendly modular design, a unique entry under the UrbanConcept category that was recognized for going beyond just reducing fuel consumption and emissions.

The other teams that walked away with trophies and cash prizes were from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP).

Students from Thailand emerged with the best run overall with a mileage of 2,903 km/l, the equivalent of driving from Kuala Lumpur to Hanoi.

Team Luk Jao Mae Khlong Prapa of Dhurakij Pudbit University Thailand competed in the Prototype category with its Ethanol E100-fueled model, beating the event record of 2,213.4 km/l it created last year.

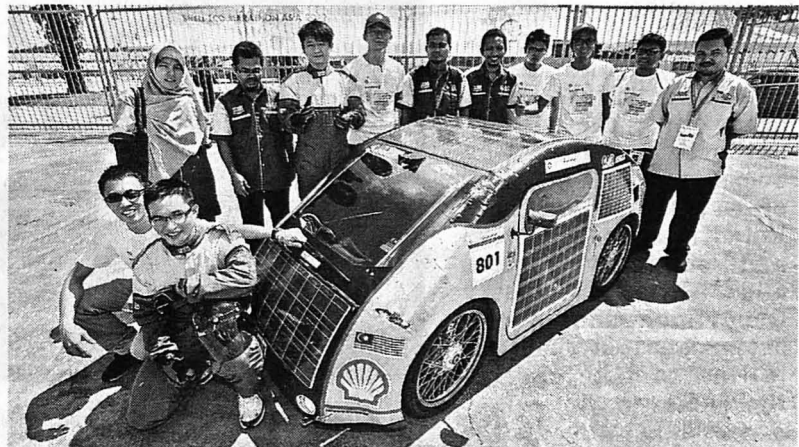
In the UrbanConcept category, Team Cikal Cakrasvarna from Indonesia achieved the highest mileage of 183 km/l, running on gasoline.

Sabah's representative, Team 1UMS from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) failed to win any award.

Technical Director of Shell Eco-Marathon Asia, Colin Chin, said the competing teams were much better prepared this year, with 109 of the 119 vehicles making it through technical inspection and



Team UMech from UM finished second in Prototype (Hydrogen) category.



Team UKM Solar-powered Prototype who were among the winners.

allowed to compete in the main event.

"Overall, it's also been really encouraging to see student teams not just modifying their previous entries, but challenging themselves to create brand new vehicles this year," said Chin.

Students entered vehicles in either of two categories: Prototype and UrbanConcept.

Prototype vehicles were typically smaller in size and more futuristic-looking with an overall design concept to reduce drag and maximise efficiency.

In the UrbanConcept category, teams were designed and built 4-wheeled fuel-economy vehicles that look similar to the passenger cars we see on the road today.

In addition to meeting specific height, width, length and weight criteria, the UrbanConcept vehicles must be capable of driving in wet

weather conditions.

For both vehicle categories, teams used either Internal Combustion Engines that run on either diesel, gasoline, ethanol, fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) or Shell Gas to Liquids; or e-mobility energy sources including solar, fuel cells and battery electric technologies.

Achieving the best run in the various energy types was not the only way to win at Shell Eco-Marathon Asia 2012.

Teams were also given the opportunity to compete for Off-Track Awards on Safety, Technical Innovation, Design and Communications.

In this year's competition, new awards were also given for Eco-Design, Best Team Spirit and Perseverance in the Face of Adversity.

Teams winning Off-Track Awards will receive USD1,000.