Eight Gold Award winners at Young Innovators Challenge

By JASON JACK EBIT

KOTA KINABALU: A total of 414 students forming 138 teams from 34 secondary schools in Sabah and four from Labuan have gathered at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) recently to compete in the Young Innovators Challenge (YIC) Programme.

The programme was a concerted effort between the University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Digital Maker Hub and Centre for Industry and Community Network, the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Hap Seng Group, Yayasan Sime Darby,

the Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation, and Chumbaka, a pertinent training provider in technology industries.

Previously known as Young Innovate Competition, the competition is the largest state level competition in Malaysia and was held for the third time in the state

The winners for the competition will be sent to the national level competition.

In 2016, the top 3 teams that won the competition went on to the National competition, where SM St Michael emerged as the national champions with

their egg incubator invention "Chick It Out".

As part of their championship award, they won a trip to the Singapore Maker Fair.

In 2017, the state level winning team from SMK Tun Fuad Stephen Kiulu went on to win the Gold Medal in the MDEC Innovation.

This year there were eight Gold Award winners, eight Silver Award winners, and 16 Bronze Award Winners.

The Gold Award winners were from SMK Tambunan, SMK Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu, SMK Bingkor, SMJK Chung Hwa, Tenom, Sabah Tshung Tsin Secondary School, SMK Kemabong Tenom, SMK Rancha-Rancha, Labuan, SM St Michael, Penampang.

Fifteen teams nationwide will be selected for the YIC nationals in September. The Gold Award winners will stand a chance to be shortlisted to represent Sabah in this national event.

While strengthening their cooperation as a team, the competition also encourages the high school students to use an embedded system such as Arduino, to solve a community problem.

All students were mentored by UMS students or teachers trained by the Hap Seng Group.



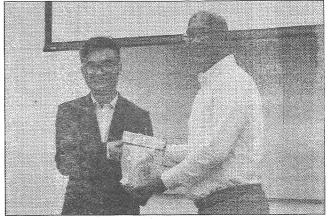
EAGER ... the competition hall for Young Innovators Challenge 2018.

During the competition, the students come up with many conceptual ideas and produced numerous prototype projects.

They also develop programming, design, and engineering skills. This competition falls under the Digital Maker Hub @ UMS Sabah, which is responsible for running programs on computational thinking and programming for teachers and students.

The objectives of this programme are to inspire passion in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), to develop living skills such as problem solving, design thinking, persistence, and collaboration, to inspire life-long learning through the use of open-source materials.

The key funding raised by the UMS students and organisers for the Arduino kits as well as the competition were raised



SOUVENIR ... Joubert, the YIC Chariman (left) presented a souvenir to the YIC advisor, Dr Siva (right).

through generous contributions from the community donors, the Hap Seng Group, Chumbaka, the Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation, and the Centre for Industry and Community Network, Universiti Malaysia Sabah.



THE WINNERS ... from Sabah and Labuan.



PASSION ... the Committee and facilitators of Young Innovators Challenge 2018.