

UMS emerges runner-up in alcohol debate

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) A team emerged as runner-up in the "North Borneo International Interschool Open: The Alcohol Debate (TAD) 2020" online debate competition held on Dec 12-13.

The UMS A team, represented by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FPSK), had earlier emerged as winners in their respective league by trouncing other varsity debating teams in the group rounds. In the semi-finals, UMS A which was helmed by Nurul Firzanah Mohd Darwis, Kuhaneshvaren Elanggovan and Jivannarajahn Rajendra Kumar defeated their Universitas Gadjadara (UGM) Indonesia opponents with their solid points and flawless arguments.

UMS A was, however, defeated by a more experienced Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) B team in a very closely-contested final in the debate tournament.

The inaugural competition, conducted online via the Zoom application platform, was organised by the Asian Medical Students' Association Universiti Malaysia Sabah (Amsa UMS) in collaboration with the Association for the Prevention of Alcohol Misuse (Apam).

The debating event witnessed the participation of 10 teams from UPM, International Medical University (IMU), Persatuan

Pendebat Pulau Pinang (The Facts), University of Cyberjaya along with the Indonesian teams from Universitas Gadjadara (UGM) and University of Nahdlatul Surabaya. The objectives of Tada 2020, among others, were to raise awareness on the issues of alcohol use, misuse, marketing and legislation which served as the central topic of the debate tournament.

The Dean of FPSK, Prof Dr Mohammad Saffree Jeffree, expressed his pride on the achievement of his faculty's debating team: "I am indeed proud of our debaters for their stellar performance which has definitely placed UMS in the spotlight.

"The team's performance in this debate shows that UMS medical students are not only able to heal but also have the ability to organise programmes, possess confidence and practise enviable leadership skills," he added. FPSK Deputy Dean (Student Affairs and Community Network) Prof Dr Azizan Omar viewed the debate tournament as timely.

"It provided an avenue for discussion and mature sharing based on intellectual points and perspectives on the issue of alcohol," he said.

For the record, the FPSK Debating Team was trained by Dr Nicholas Pang Tze Ping, a psychiatrist and also Deputy Director (Clinical) of UMS Hospital.