

# Malaysia can be eco-design hub, says Nippon Paint



(Left to right): Anura Hasim, chief judge (Interior category); Loh Poh Shi, Gold winner (interior design category); Gladys Goh, general manager, Nippon Paint (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd; Tee Khay Mee, Gold winner (architecture category) and Ar. Jasmeet Singh Sidhu, chief judge (architecture category)

**PETALING JAYA:** Nippon Paint (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd yesterday announced the winners of the Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2010.

The competition themed, "Raising the Next Generation of Eco Design", was an opportunity for Malaysian interior design and architecture students to propose design ideas that would promote environmental responsibility and sustainable living, the company said in a statement.

This year, 336 submissions were received from aspiring interior designers and architects from 26 colleges and universities nationwide, an increase of 170 per cent from last year's. Each entry presented cutting edge, creative interior and architecture designs of outstanding quality.

The winning design in the interior category came from Low Poh Shi a student at the Malaysian Institute of

Art, while Bernadette Quah Paik Choo of KBU International College won the silver award. In the Architecture category, the gold award went to Tee Khay Mee of Universiti Putra Malaysia, while Nurhayati Nordin of Universiti Malaya received the silver award.

Due to the popularity of the contest among students, a new award category was introduced this year – the Student Choice Award – for the shortlisted entry that received the highest number of online votes. Ng Ann Kee of **UCSI University**

won the award after securing a total of 12,946 votes. In the Architecture category, the Student Choice Award was won by Khor Yih Chau from Universiti Sains Malaysia who secured 24,351 votes.

Speaking during the awards ceremony, Gladys Goh, Nippon Paint (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd's general manager

said: "Looking at the submissions, I felt a great sense of pride that Malaysia has so much talent, especially in this field of eco-design. I look forward to the day when the country is recognised as a hub for eco-design."

"Nippon Paint Malaysia is very happy to be able provide the country's young, promising interior designers and architects with the opportunity to showcase their creativity and ideas in designing eco-friendly spaces that will help promote environmental sustainability in the long term," she added.

The gold winners of the Nippon Paint Young Designer Award 2010 will each receive RM3,000 cash scholarship and an Apple Mac Book Pro, while the silver winners from each category will each receive RM2,000 in cash scholarship. The honorary mentions in both categories will each receive RM1,000 in cash scholarship.- Bernama