

Peron leads women of substance as first College Queen

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KUCHING: The first College Queen 2016 was crowned at Swinburne University on Friday, with two UCSI undergrads fitting the bill of beauty and brains.

As Women, Welfare and Family Development Minister Datuk Fatimah Abdullah, articulately defined, women's beauty is not limited to physical appearance alone.

As advocated, beauty queen and pageant contests should highlight and bring out the qualities of women of substance rather than just rewarding physical traits as a main value.

"We should promote appreciation of the whole woman – her intelligence, gracefulness, friendliness, humble, well-mannered, dignified and clear sense of purpose," said the VIP guest at the pageant held at Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus on Friday night.

"She is someone who is committed to improve herself, family and community through education both formal and informal," Fatimah added.

The inaugural College Queen 2016 was organised by Swinburne Sarawak Fashion Club in

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collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) and UCSI University Sarawak Campus.

Fatimah also commended the organisers and participants for their active involvement in the college's extracurricular activities despite a busy studying schedule as it can help the students mature socially.

"An event such as this provides opportunity for students to learn valuable skills and foster teamwork that are important for learning and development," she said.

"It shows that you have the ability and capability to successfully organise and manage an event of this magnitude. With this kind of commitment, you are placed ahead of others," she added.

Meanwhile, the first inter-university competition witnessed the finalists compete on the fashion catwalk in three qualifying rounds of outfits including traditional costume, cocktail wear and evening gowns.

The 2016 College Queen crown went to 22-year-old Jennifer Jeffrey Peron from Malaysia who is studying in UCSI.

First runnerup was 19-year-old Kau Khoon Yen, also from Malaysia, studying in UCSI. Kau also won the Miss Popularity title.

Second runnerup was 21-year-old Wasana Wickramaratne from Sri Lanka studying in Swinburne.

The other subsidiary titles of Miss Photogenic went to Aniq Shams from Bangladesh while Singaporean Nor Warda Abdul Nasser was awarded Miss Friendship and Careen Kumar from Malaysia took the Miss Personality.

A total of 14 finalists including students from Bangladesh, Singapore, Kazakhstan, Oman, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan were vying for the College Queen crown.

Sponsors were Jackie Butik Impian Pengantin, Soulheal Spa & Wellness, The Rock Shop, Bella's Garden, and Chakkrah Metal Traders.



Fatimah (third right) with College Queen 2016 Jennifer (fourth left), Kau (third left) and Wasana (fifth left). Also seen is Swinburne Sarawak deputy vice-chancellor and chief executive officer Professor Janet Gregory (second right).