

UM team wins energy-saving contest

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PETALING JAYA: Universiti Malaysia's UM Team won the first prize in Schneider Electric's University Challenge 2010 Green the World @ My Campus competition.

The team of three walked away with RM15,000, a certificate of honour each, a challenge trophy and the opportunity to participate in the Southeast Asia's regional competition next year.

Majoring in electrical engineering, the trio came up with a proposal entitled "Intelligent Lighting and Centralised Air Conditioning System in My Campus", where they used a combination of 28 Schneider products to create a lighting system and an air conditioning system that could save up to 56.8 per cent and 42 per cent of energy consumption, respectively.

"With the use of multi-sensors, lights and air conditioners in a room will switch on automatically when it detects the presence of people and vice versa," said team member Lee Meng Tat.

"The brightness from the lights and room temperature will also change automatically according to changes in the environment.

"For example, when the room gets more light from the sun, the brightness level of the lights will be reduced," added Lee.

Team Eco-University from Utar was the first runner-up. They walked away with RM10,000, a certificate for each member and a trophy.

The second runner-up was Green-tech, another UM team. It received RM5,000, a certificate for each member and a trophy.

About 55 teams from 13 local universities registered for the challenge, and 10 made it to the final.

Among the finalists were teams from Universiti Sains Malaysia, International Islamic University Malaysia, INTI International University and UCSI University.

Schneider Electric South East Asia senior vice-president Stuart John Thorogood said the teams were evaluated based on the amount of energy saved, returns-on-investment and the practicality of their proposals.

"The finalists had to come up with a solution proposal and a prototype, and present their

proposals.

"Eighty-five per cent of the evaluation was for the practical solution, while another 15 per cent was for presentation."

Thorogood, who was on the panel of four judges, said he planned to offer the students from the winning team positions in Schneider Electric.

Three students from last year's winning team have been employed by the company.

Thorogood said the objective of the challenge

was to come up with ways to conserve energy and as energy and electricity consumption are expected to double by the year 2050.

"We hope to raise awareness on the importance of saving energy and simple ways to do it," he said.

Schneider Electric funded the cost to build the teams' prototypes which will be displayed at their universities after the competition.

"We hope to hold this challenge yearly and undertake sustainable activities to help protect and preserve our planet," said Thorogood.



Thorogood (standing, left) and Schneider Electric Malaysia country president Peter Cave (standing, right) with the winners of 'Green the World @ My Campus' university challenge. — Picture by Halimatun Saadiah Sulaiman