

Boosting student interest in STEM

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WITH a wide range of studies in science and technologies being offered by various faculties at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), it is no wonder that it was again selected as host for the National Science Challenge (NSC) 2018 State Level - Putrajaya.

This year marks the fourth time the prestigious contest is held at Dewan Pertetapan of the Social Science and Humanities Faculty.

In his speech, UKM deputy vice-chancellor Professor Dr. Anis Ahmad thanked the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) and the Young Scientists Net-

work (YSN) for choosing UKM to host the event.

"UKM also hosted the semi-finals and Grand Finale NSC in 2016 and 2017," said Imran.

"UKM has always welcomed engagement with other organisations, especially schools and educational colleges. We see this as a platform to recognise the two worlds and to equally mobilise them to drive competitive education among the young generation of Malaysia."

Previously known as Kuiz Sains Nasional, the NSC competition was first held in 1980 to inculcate a culture of excellence in science. It also aims to nurture, promote and enhance interest in science, technology and innovation among

school students.

This year's event saw five teams pitting their knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects against each other in several rounds of quizzes and a pitching session. Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah emerged as state winners to qualify for the semi-final – a challenging one-week science camp at various universities in the country. Throughout the programme, the teams were judged on criteria ranging from discipline, critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, research project and presentation to report writing. Four teams were selected to compete at the Grand Final Level on Aug 31.

"I am sure that the collaboration be-

tween ASM and UKM will enable the NSC to be recognised as one of the most important and prestigious science competitions in the nation," added Imran.

"Within a few years, the children will graduate from their secondary education and will pursue their studies at university."

"As one of the leading universities in the nation, UKM welcomes all students."

"This year UKM has achieved a number of national and international successes. It has jumped to 184th in the QS World University Rankings 2018/2019, putting it in the top 200 for 2018/2019. This increase is very significant because UKM was ranked 239 in the past and 302 in the previous year."

"Also making us proud is Faculty of

Science and Technology (FST) student N. Razvi Kamar who won the Best Overall Participant and Best Participant Award at the Asian Youth Camp 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand recently."

Razvi and his university mate, Khaw Chung Yuen, also from FST, came up with an idea to avoid the pollution of electricity by creating a substance capable of replacing the electric heater.

"Apart from science and technology, UKM strongly supports student engagement in competitions and camps within and outside the country."

UKM has a wide range of studies in science and technology aimed at providing a conducive infrastructure and environment for its students and staff.



From left ASM Science Education Committee Professor Dr. Ahmad Ismail presenting certificates to the winning team and their mentor from Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah.