



NEHEMIAH DESIGN COMPETITION 2013

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THE NEHEMIAH DESIGN COMPETITION IS INTO ITS 4th EDITION SINCE IT STARTED IN 2010. THIS YEAR, IT IS HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA.

Kuala Lumpur, 10 October 2013 (Thursday) – For four consecutive years, the Nehemiah Design Competition has attracted undergraduates throughout the country to participate and solve a real engineering design challenge.

This year, Y.B. Datuk Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof, Minister of Works Malaysia has kindly consented to grace the occasion as the Guest of Honour of our Fourth Edition of the competition.

Although mainly targeting at civil engineering students, the competition is also open to architecture and design students from institutions of higher learning throughout Malaysia.

Participants have been tasked to design a fictitious project for the Public Works Department (JKR) by constructing a highway connecting the west coast and the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia. A 200m long section of this highway passes through a valley of 20m depth on the fringe of a million years old rainforest. Due to the logistic challenges, accessibility and cost constraint, the construction of a bridge as a solution has been ruled out.

This year's champion and first runner up were clinched by University of Malaya, HK and Eureka, respectively, while SOCE Linton from Linton University College bagged the second runner's up. Over two teams participated in this year's competition, but only 10 teams were picked as finalists. They were PUO JR (Politeknik Ungku Omar), sARCHolah (UTM Skudai), Green Innovative (University Tunku Abdul Rahman), KYTCH (University Tunku Abdul Rahman), UPNM1 (Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia), UPNM2 (Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia), Valley Explorers (Linton University College), EUREKA (University of Malaya), HK (University of Malaya) and SOCE Linton (Linton University College).

Although the situation may be the same, it does not mean the solution provided has to be the same. "The students will have to exercise their creativity and innovativeness to propose a holistic solution that is both structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing by incorporating 'green technology' features," explained Ir Tan Cheng Chong during the opening speech.

"The proposed solution must be practical with emphasis on time and cost savings in view of the logistics and other challenges including cost constraints," he said.

Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Malaya is this year's venue sponsor for the annual event. One of the main objectives is to revive an interest in civil engineering in this country.

The panel of judges comprised mainly representatives of professional bodies such as the Institute of Engineers Malaysia (IEM), Master Builders Association of Malaysia (MBAM), Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR) and the Institute of Highway & Transport (CIHTMB).