

The mighty challenge is back

THE competition which challenges students on their knowledge of current events, the ability to build an innovative model based on a theme and their creativity and oratory skills kicks off in two weeks. Yes, the RHB-The Star Mighty Minds Challenge 2015 is back for the seventh year and starts in Ipoh, Perak on March 7. This is followed by Malacca on March 28 and Johor on April 4. The competition is open to secondary school students in all 14 states. There are two categories in the competition – Lower

The annual competition will see some of the brainiest teens battling it out for the first time this year in Perak.

Category which is open to students in Forms One, Two and Three and Upper Secondary comprising students in Forms Four and Five. While the format of the competition has largely remained the same with the multiple-choice question quiz, hands-on challenge, oral presentation and buzzer quiz, the content has changed over the years. There has been an

injection of new ideas and tougher questions. This is to ensure that the competition stays ahead and is indeed a battle of the mightiest minds for teens in the country. From a “Science, Maths and General Knowledge” quiz, which tested students mainly on what was learnt in the classroom, the competition has become one where general knowledge takes centre stage. Third former Deshvinder Kaur

Delvinder Singh from SMK Bukit Mewah in Negri Sembilan, who was part of the winning lower secondary team in the Mighty Minds National Challenge 2014, said those wanting to take part this year should brush up on their general knowledge. “Teams should also look at past year questions for Mighty Minds and find out how the problems were solved,” he said. His team member Naviinesh

Morgan from SMK St Paul, Seremban said that every individual should do their best. “Have a good balance of general knowledge, model-building as well as presentation skills,” he added. The competition comprises the State and National Challenge. The champs of the state challenge in both the lower and upper secondary categories will repre-


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Hands-on challenge questions

PERAK

TEAMS (comprising three students each) will be given one hour to build an original, innovative model in response to the themes below. The themes may be interpreted literally or figuratively, but should be aimed at resolving a problem in our society. The best models will offer a positive impact either on an identified customer or on the environment. The theme will be published in *StarEducate* on Sundays and the RHB-The Star Mighty Minds microsite (www.thestar.com.my/mighty_minds) two weeks before the day of the competition. The two-week period will give you time to read and research and to be inspired and ready for the hands-on challenge. Since your team is required to explain your model to the judges, be proactive and brush up on your oral presentation skills as well. On the day of the competition, only the top 10 teams for each category in the Multiple Choice Question Challenge will be eligible to take part in the one-hour hands-on challenge. It takes effort, talent and passion to win but preparation is just as important. On completion of the hands-on challenge, teams will be given three minutes to present their model to the panel of judges. Speaking in turns, team members will speak for one minute each. The models will be judged based on the following three aspects:

- Understanding of the theme and how it impacts society;
- The potential benefits of



the model and its marketability;

- The creative features of the model.

Lower Secondary
Theme: Bag Snatchers Beware

– Help prevent pedestrians from becoming victims of snatch thieves.

Upper Secondary
Theme: Hazy Days

– Help lessen the effects of air pollution such as the haze created by deforestation of peat lands.

Participants in both Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary will be provided with a standard tool kit for each hands-on challenge. It will contain the following items: Two pairs of scissors, 1 pen knife, 1 tube of superglue, 1 tube of PVA glue, 1 roll of masking tape, 1 roll of cellophane tape, 1 long ruler, 1 screwdriver and 3 pairs of gloves.

In addition, you will be provided with simple, economical and disposal materials that you may use to construct your model. Be prepared to be flexible in your innovation as some of the items may be substituted. Typical materials you may be provided with include a black mounting board (50cm x 38cm), a manila card (55cm x 38cm), elastic bands, popsicle sticks, an empty mineral water bottle (500ml), a length of hose, a short spring, small plastic containers with lids (7.5 cm diameter x 4cm high), a square of fabric, a piece of netting, paper clips, a short length of string, straws, a compact disc and beads. Teams will not be permitted to bring in any materials or tools of your own.



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Prof Tan Siew Ee
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Obtained his doctorate from University of Regensburg (Germany). Has extensive teaching and research experience from serving at Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Brunei Darussalam and University of Regensburg. Senior Researcher and Consultant to UN, ASEAN-Expat, OECD, Institute of Developing Economies (Japan) and Brunei and Sabah State Agencies.

Dr Cheah Sin Chye
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30 years' experience in various levels in the education industry. Also taught at the International Business School, Jönköping University, Sweden. Has also worked in students' affairs department with managerial experience as head of programs and as the Deputy Dean of Business School in a private university.

Mr Jacob Kulleh
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Jacob has been with HELP University for the past 10 years, attached to the Department of Business Studies. He teaches marketing and management for Year 2 and 3 students. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Management at UPM. For Jacob, learning is a life-long process and he believes in nurturing the next generation with our values.

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