NEHEMIAH COMPETITION 2010

NEHEMIAH ORGANISES NEHEMIAH DESIGN COMPETITION FOR PRIVATE AND PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

Kuala Lumpur, 20 August 2010 (Friday) - The Top Consultant team from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Faculty of Engineering emerged as champion, during the inaugural Nehemiah Design Competition 2010 held at UTAR Setapak campus on Aug 20.

The team, comprising Lee Kok Sheng, Lee Lian Wei, Chew Yi Zhong, Cheong Wei Hao, Richard Chai Chen Foon and Peter Soo Chin Yee, mainly Final Year Civil Engineering students clinched the top prize of RM5,000 cash and a plaque. Team leader, Lee Kok Sheng said several days of hard work, including having to burn midnight oil, was worth all the efforts. "My team members and I took the competition very seriously," he said, during the presentation of the prize by Senior General Manager of Nehemiah Reinforced Soil Sdn Bhd, Ir Tan Cheng Chong.

"We had to think of a practical solution, while making sure our costs are well within control. It's like tendering for a project," said the Final Year Engineering student from UTAR.

The first runner up cash prize of RM3,000 was won by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia's Quad team, led by Lim Gim Huang, and his fellow Third Year Built Environment students, Cornelius Ignatius Ho Su Yin, Heng Wen Dee and Lee Woan Wei.

UTAR, which played host to the event, also fielded another winning team, Gephyrophobia, led by Final Year Civil Engineering student, Tan Meng Yue, who was assisted by fellow team members, Chew Sin Tat, Chong Jia Hoe, Foo Chee Liang, Lim Yong Kiat, Hwong Shih Siong, Chan Wei Siang and Peh Shuo Yan.

A total of 12 finalists had been selected from a number of universities and colleges from across the country to put their engineering and architectural designs, which included a built-up model which was judged from a number of criteria..

Judges were invited from various professional bodies. Ir Chuan Yeong Ming Master Builders Association of Malaysia (MBAM), Ir Tu Yong Eng from Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM), Dr. Che Hassandi b. Abdullah (Road Engineering Association Malaysia (REAM)) and Lailatul Akmar bt. Ahmad Alias (Institute of Highway & Transport (CIHTMB)). Ir Dr Nehemiah Lee Chee Hai, managing director of Nehemiah Reinforced Soil Sdn Bhd, was the lead judge. According to Dr Lee, the judging process was very thorough. "Each judge was given 15 minutes each to assess on each team," he said. "This is to make sure that we have a fair judging scheme in place, where no one judge is influenced by the other during the judging process."

For the inaugural engineering design competition this year, students have been asked to provide a solution to a real life situation involving the construction of a highway through steep mountainous terrain in a remote part of Sabah, where a section of this highway passes through a valley of 20 metres in depth spanning a length of 200 metres.

The Challenge for 2010

The Public Works Department (JKR) desires to construct a highway through steep mountainous terrain in a remote part of Sabah. A section of this highway passes through a valley of 20 meters in depth spanning a length of 200m. Due to logistics, accessibility and costs constraints, the construction of a bridge as a solution has been ruled out.

You, as the designer of this highway have been tasked with the challenge to solve this complex problem. Your proposed solution must be practical with emphasis on time and cost savings in view of the remoteness of the location.

You are expected to exercise your creativity and innovativeness to propose a solution that is both structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing. The proposed solution shall be presented in the form of a scale model measuring not larger than 1m length x 0.5m width x 0.5m height complete with its technical specification. The cost for constructing the scale models should not exceed RM 200.00.