



NEHEMIAH DESIGN COMPETITION 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE NEHEMIAH DESIGN COMPETITION IS INTO ITS 3RD EDITION SINCE IT STARTED IN 2010. THIS YEAR, IT IS HELD AT INTI SUBANG.



Kuala Lumpur, 8 November 2012 (Thursday) – For three consecutive years, the Nehemiah Design Competition has attracted undergraduates throughout the country to participate and solve a real engineering design challenge.

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

This year, 15 student teams were selected as finalists to showcase their idea of what could be the best structure to permanently solve the frequent flooding of Kampung Baru, a heritage village located very close to Sungai Kelang in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. The solution would also have to take into consideration the need for it to also function as an embankment for the construction of a world class highway,

The task follows after both the Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM) and the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (JPS) have collaborated to design a dual-purpose structure that acts as a flood mitigation measure against flooding and also supports a highway above it.

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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 Founding Chairman of Nehemiah Reinforced Soil Sdn Bhd, Ir. Dr. Nehemiah Lee Chee Hai (李志海) during the opening speech.

"The proposed solution must be practical with emphasis on time and cost savings in view of the impending monsoon season. This also has to take into consideration the space constraints in Kampung Baru."

It is such project-based learning (PBL) approach that also attracted the attention of Dr Dominic Szambowski, INTI's president. "The competition is in line with INTI's PBL approach to education which seeks to develop students' global employability skills," he said. "PBL is becoming a key strength for students' learning experience across INTI's campuses. It will serve as an increasingly important component of education for years to come."

INTI is this year's venue sponsor for the annual event organised by Nehemiah Reinforced Soil Sdn Bhd, as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR). One of the main objectives is to revive an interest in civil engineering in this country.

Y.B. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia, was Guest of Honour at the event. This year's Champion went to GEOTECH from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), followed by SENTINEL from INTI International University and UTAR C1 from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), in the first and second runners up.

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).

The physical landscape of the affected area

