

Three Young Malaysians Chosen for ACA World Championship

THREE Malaysian university students will be representing the country at the Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) World Championship after winning at the national level yesterday.

They were Nur Nadirah Razali from Swinburne University of Technology, Tan Jia Yi from University Malaya, and Teo Sze Ting from Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, crowned the champion of ACA Championship Malaysia 2021.

Additionally, the ACA Championship Malaysia 2021 saw an additional award — the “Anugerah Perdana” — in which former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (*picture*) hand-picked his favourite artwork by Imran Syafiq Mohd Zin from Universiti Teknologi Mara, Puncak Alam Campus.

He said the choice was due to its clear portrayal of the competition’s theme and illustrates the message of suicide prevention.

“I wish to remind all young Malaysians that there is no shortcut to success. Hold on to your values and remember that you are our hope for the future,” Dr Mahathir said in a virtual keynote address after presenting the award.

The theme, chosen by the Befrienders KL, was “Where There’s Life, There’s Hope”, to raise awareness on suicide prevention, especially among the nation’s youth.

According to the Befrienders KL, the calls that they have received have almost doubled during this pandemic.

With suicidal cases on the rise in Malaysia during the pandemic, it has become a very important topic to touch on.

The ACA Championship Malaysia 2021 said it is happy to bring light to this matter and educate the public to look out for their loved ones.

What would usually require all the contestants to gather in a hall to complete their designs in an eight-hour period was accomplished by using a digital group-chatting platform in which the ACA examiners monitored the contestants' work through a livestream.

Meanwhile, Higher Education Ministry academic excellence division director Assoc Prof Dr Wan Zuhainis Saad said students and youths should leverage platforms such as the ACA World Championship and set their minds to pursue a career in the creative industry which is in demand currently.

She said active participation can also allow students to dabble in a niche field such as the creative industry which is outside of their curriculum, in order to adapt to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“The ACA World Championship can open up many opportunities for students to explore and experience the world of creative design.

“Creativity can appear in many forms and across all types of creation. It can also be used to develop one's entrepreneurship skills which may help them start a business on their own in the future,” she said in her opening speech yesterday.

ACA Championship Malaysia sets a platform for students majoring in Arts and Design to showcase their work on a broader scale, while opening many opportunities for them such as securing employment.

This competition is open to all institutions of higher learning, secondary schools, colleges and polytechnics.

Students are required to participate in ACA Championship Malaysia (National Level), after which the winner will go on to the ACA World Championship in the US.

Among the prizes included is the ACA certification, a global industry-recognised credential to validate the holder's Adobe digital media software skills.



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