



**STANDARDS**  
MALAYSIA

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**(6 September 2018)**

## **NURTURING TALENT IN STANDARDISATION THROUGH NATIONAL STANDARDS OLYMPIAD 2018**

*“45 participants from 12 Schools from all over Malaysia competed in the National Standards Olympiad”*

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**KUALA LUMPUR, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>** –Department of Standards Malaysia (Standards Malaysia) continues to enhance awareness and knowledge on standardisation and conformance to the secondary school students through non-academic platforms by organising the National Standards Olympiad 2018 from 4-6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the International Youth Center, Kuala Lumpur.

The competition is one of the initiatives under the Education About Standardisation Programme spearheaded by Standards Malaysia. There are 45 students from 12 schools from all over Malaysia who have competed in the National Standards Olympiad 2018, while the students were selected from a nationwide essay competition on standardisation. There are 15 groups for two categories in the competition; the lower secondary (13-15 years old) and upper secondary (16-17 years old); whereas eight groups are in the lower secondary and seven groups are in the upper secondary.

*“The competition is the most practical way of teaching students on the elements of standards and conformance as the students will understand the underlying concept on how and why a standard is developed. Standards and conformance are very dry and complicated learning subject to be introduced to school students if it is just taught in classroom. This competition will give the student hands-on experience on the importance of standards in their everyday life.*

*This is also the approach used by the Korea Agency for Standards and Technology (KATS) when they organise their yearly competition on International Standards Olympiad. We have been participating in this competition in South Korea since 2014 and always come home with medals – either gold, silver or bronze. This is also one of the reasons why we initiated this competition at the national level. We would like to extend the opportunities to more students to gain similar learning experience back home,”* said Datuk Fadilah Baharin, Director General of Standards Malaysia.

The judges for the competition were selected from Ministry of Education, University of Malaya (UM), University Putra Malaysia, University of Nottingham (Semenyih), The Institution of Engineers Malaysia, Majlis Rekabentuk Malaysia and Pusat Sains Negara.

*“Under the Education About Standardisation Programme, we have signed MoU with a few universities and one of them is UM. Under this MoU we have collaborated in many activities and one of them is a formulation of the questions for this competition”,* said Ridzwan Kasim, Senior Director of the Department of Standards Malaysia.

The students are given two tasks where Task 1, they are required to develop a portfolio which requires them to use the knowledge on standardisation such as standardising features or process to solve the given problem and in Task 2, they are required to develop a prototype and they are also required to apply the concept of standardisation in the given context.

The questions in Task 1 and 2 require some knowledge on science, technology, environment and mathematics (STEM) which is also relevant to one of the function in Ministry Of Energy Science Technology Environment And Climate Change (MESTECC), to nurture more talents in the fields of STEM.

*“Studies done on the National Standards Compliance Programme in 2014 and The Economic Impact on the Usage of Standards conducted in 2016, has emphasised on the importance of creating and enhancing knowledge on standards and conformance among future generation. This is vital in providing the support for Malaysia to be a developed nation. Therefore, the National Standards Olympiad 2018 will be one of the tools to achieve this. We aspire this programme to be done yearly”* said Fadilah

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#### **About Department of Standards Malaysia (Standards Malaysia)**

Governed by the Standards of Malaysia Act 1996 (Act 549), the Department of Standards Malaysia (Standards Malaysia) is an agency established on 28 August 1996, under the Ministry Of Energy Science Technology Environment And Climate Change (MESTECC).

Standards Malaysia is the National Standards & Accreditation Body of Malaysia providing confidence to various stakeholders, through credible standardisation and accreditation services for global competitiveness.

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