

SIR Is Back For The Fourth Year!

Kuala Lumpur, 23 March 2011 – The RHB Banking Group and The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad (NSTP) have renewed their partnership to organise the country's biggest spelling competition, the RHB New Straits Times National Spell-It-Right ('SIR') Challenge for the fourth consecutive year.



(from left) Puan Norazzah Sulaiman, Director Of Group Corporate Services of The RHB Banking Group, Mr Kellee Kam, Principal Officer and Director Of Group Finance Of RHB Capital Berhad, YBhg Dato' Syed Nadzri Syed Harun, Group Editor, The New Straits Times & Puan Zuraida Mohamad, Director Of Marketing, NSTP

It was announced at the soft launch ceremony held at RHB Centre, and graced by Dato' Syed Nadzri Syed Harun, Group Editor of New Straits Times; Kellee Kam, Principal Officer and Director of Group Finance of RHB Capital Berhad; Zuraida Mohamad, Director of Marketing, NSTP and Norazzah Sulaiman, Director of Group Corporate Services of the RHB Banking Group.

SIR 2011 will widen its reach to include students from private schools that are on the Malaysian national education system in addition to government-funded schools. The organisers hope this will help raise the standard of the competition and give students from private schools the opportunity to be part of this exciting competition.

"We are very pleased to be working with the New Straits Times on the SIR Challenge for the fourth year running. We are committed in our pledge to educate and nurture young Malaysians, as they are our nation's future leaders and they will need a quality education to form a holistic development that will help them reach their aspirations. We look forward to the 2011 SIR Challenge, and we hope to be able to repeat the success we've had in the last three seasons," said Norazzah.

Norazzah added "the Group continues to place an important emphasis on education that nurtures and develops young minds, not only from an academic standpoint, but also in a way that builds the self-esteem, confidence and competitive spirit of generation who will one day be our nation leaders".

This year, exciting prizes await winners, with cash prizes of RM15,000.00 and RM10,000 for the 1st and 2nd place National Challenge winners in the Secondary and Primary school categories respectively. At the State Challenge level, besides cash prizes for the top five winners, there are also cash prizes for ten consolation prize winners of each category.

The competition accepts the registration of participants not only from teachers but also from the participants' parents or guardians. However, the maximum number of participants for each school is only ten students, and on a first-come, first-served basis.



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The competition is divided into two stages – the State Challenge and the National Challenge. The nationwide State Challenge will start from April 8 until June 26, 2011, while the National Challenge is scheduled to be held on July 16, 2011 in Kuala Lumpur.

Entry forms are available in the New Straits Times and details of the competition are available on www.nst.com.my/SIR and www.rhb.com.my.

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About the RHB New Straits Times National Spell-It-Right Challenge 2011

The fourth edition of this nationwide spelling competition is jointly organised by the New Straits Times and RHB Banking Group as a corporate social responsibility exercise. Its objectives are to foster English proficiency among young Malaysians and to promote the use of the newspaper as an educational tool.

The competition accepts British and American English spelling. It is divided into two categories; Category 1 for Primary Schools (Year 1 to Year 6) and Category 2 for Secondary Schools (Form 1 to Form 5).

There are two challenge stages; State Challenge and National Challenge. In the State Challenge, students undergo preliminary elimination rounds before qualifying for the state final round where they will compete for the State Champion title.

At the National Challenge, fourteen State Champions of each category will compete for the National Champion title.

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