



News Room

SIR'S Fifth Edition Launched

Kuantan, April 21, 2012 – The RHB – New Straits Times National Spell-It-Right Challenge 2012 (SIR) was launched in Kuantan Parade yesterday morning. The launch coincided with the Pahang State Challenge for Primary School Category. The RHB Banking Group and The New Straits Times Press (M) Berhad (NSTP) have renewed their partnership to organise the country's biggest spelling competition for the fifth year in running.

The launch was attended by Abdul Jalil Hamid, NSTP's Group Managing Editor, Kellee Kam, Group Managing Director of RHB Banking Group and Norazzah Sulaiman, Director of Group Corporate Services of RHB Banking Group.

The launch was officiated when last year's Pahang State Champion for Primary School Category winner, Ahmad Suhail Ahmad Nizam from SK Tanjung Lalang went on stage accompanied by 22 students. The students formed the longest word in the world "**Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokoniosis**" and Ahmad Suhail took the stand to spell the word out. This longest word is a term referring to a lung disease caused by silica dust.

SIR 2012 continues to accept students from private schools who observe the national syllabus, a new rule introduced in 2011. This measure has helped raise the standard of the competition and give students from private schools the opportunity to be part of this exciting competition.

The Pahang State Challenge for Primary schools saw * participants vying for the Pahang State Champion title and * participants for the Secondary School Category on April 22, 2012.

For the Primary School Category, the State Champion will receive RM2,000 in cash, the second prize RM1,500; third prize RM1,000; fourth prize RM800 and fifth prize RM500. 10 consolation prize winners will receive RM100 each.

In the Secondary School Category, the State Champion will receive RM3,000 in cash, second prize RM2,500; third prize RM2,000; fourth prize RM1,500 and fifth prize RM1,000. Ten consolation prize winners will receive RM200 each.

The competition is divided in two stages – the State Challenge and the National Challenge. The nationwide State Challenge started in Kuantan and Ipoh simultaneously on April 21 – 22, 2012 and will end on July 1, 2012. The National Challenge is scheduled to be held on July 14, 2012 in Kuala Lumpur.

Eight pre-recorded television episodes of the challenge are scheduled to be aired on TV3 in September 2012.

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

This nationwide spelling competition, jointly organized by the New Straits Times and RHB Banking Group as a corporate social responsibility exercise, was incepted in 2008. Its objective was to foster English proficiency among young Malaysians and to promote the use of the newspaper as an educational tool. Since 2010, the competition received endorsement from the Ministry of Education.

The competition accepts British and American spelling. It is divided into two categories; Primary School Category (Year 1 to Year 6) and Secondary School Category (Form 1 to Form 5). There are two challenge stages; State Challenge and National Challenge. In the State Challenge, students undergo preliminary 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 vie for the National Champion title. The National Champion for Primary School Category and Secondary School Category will receive RM15,000 and RM10,000 cash respectively.