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MALAYSIANS AMONGST ASIA'S TOP YOUNG ARCHITECTS & INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Nippon Paint's Japan Learning Program bridges students with industry professionals

Shah Alam, 31 March, 2015: Malaysian students Wong Kail Li and Lim Yong An, Gold Winners for Nippon Paint Young Designer Award (NPYDA) 2014, recently participated in **NPYDA's Japan Learning Program**, in which they were competing with Gold Winners from 7 other countries namely Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Japan and Hong Kong.

The NPYDA 2014 Japan Learning Program was held in Osaka, as Japan is the birthplace of Nippon Paint more than 130 years ago in 1881. The grand finale saw 14 Gold Award Winners from the participating countries in Asia Pacific, vying for the ultimate young designer award.

Ryunosuke Akuta from Japan emerged as the overall winner, with his creation entitled, **"Sacrifice"**. His architectural design was based on the theme of 'infinite life', where the dwellers are able to live within a community to the end of time. Uniquely designed, the land in which the home sits on emerges as a beautiful island at high tide. ***"His design was clearly well-thought, involving how a community would interact socially as well as at a deeper emotional level. Coincidentally, the next NPYDA theme would incorporate the "emotional" part of design, so clearly, Akuta-san is headed in the right direction in terms of today's architectural and design priorities. Every year, I can see that the standards is constantly raised and I truly commend the students for their submissions which are on par with design professionals as well,"*** said Ar Sarly of Sarly Adre Sarkum Architecture Sdn Bhd, one of the judges at the NPYDA 2014 grand finale.

"Sacrifice" was selected upon a rigorous selection process by a judging panel consisting of industry experts such as **Ar. Sarly Adre bin Sarkum** (*President of the Malaysia Green Building Confederation and Founder of Sarly Adre Sarkum Architecture Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia*), **Ms. Siritip Harntaweewongsa** (*Co-founder and Director of Sustainable Design at GreenDwell, Thailand*), **Mr. Horace Pan** (*Assistant Professor at the School of Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic University and*



Vice Chairman of Hong Kong Interior Design Association, Hong Kong), **Ar. Tomohiro Hata** (Founder of Tomohiro Hata Architect and Associates, Japan), and **Ar. Kazuma Yamao** (Founder of GINGRICH Architect, Japan).

At the NPYDA 2014 Japan Learning Program, Group CEO of Nippon Paint South East Asia, Wee Siew Kim said, ***“Nippon Paint is committed to shaping the future of today’s youth in the design industry. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our young talents who have performed and excel amazingly in this competition. The NPYDA platform was designed for them in mind involving a series of workshops, knowledge exchange session and mentorship programmes with industry experts from all over the world. I am proud to see how it has grown in strength, since its humble beginning seven years ago. Indeed, this Japan Learning Program provides an invaluable experience for young designers in Asia to network with experienced industry professionals whilst showcasing their creative ideas to the international audience.”***

As a leading total coatings provider in Asia, Nippon Paint takes on the leadership role to facilitate the growth of the design industry and provide a platform for young students to integrate colours into their designs. Themed ***‘Re:Think Re:Create Our Community, Our Home’***, the NPYDA 2014 featured winners who presented their ideas and creative designs in two categories - Architecture and Interior Design. The entries were judged based on colour concept, green and sustainable design, design concept statement and design innovation.

Wong Kail Li from Universiti Putra Malaysia represented Malaysia, as she recently took home the Gold Award in the Architecture Category with her design titled ***“Bond the Vicinity–Hydrophilic Retirement Retreat”*** which encouraged the elderly to interact amongst themselves and with the public, within a green and sustainable environment. Wong said, ***“I am thankful for being part of this Japan Learning Program. I learnt a lot from fellow students from different countries in Asia, as well as industry professionals through their sharing sessions. The coaching sessions by Ar. Tomohiro Hata and Ar. Kazuma Yamao before the grand finale was truly an eye-opener, not just for this competition but for my future career as well. Their invaluable input has inspired me to continuously develop designs that are unique, and adds value to the community and environment surrounding us.”***



Alongside Wong, Malaysia was also represented by Lim Yong An from KBU International College, the Gold Award winner for the Interior Design Category. His *LEAF (Lifestyle, Easy, Advanced, Fun) Agricultural Nursery*, offers a unique, sustainable F&B environment where people can enjoy fresh produce that were harvested using organic waste as compost.

The 3-day Japan Learning Program was also graced by notable industry professionals around the region including **Ms. Monika Fecht** (*Board member of CMG Asia Pacific Group*) from Colour Marketing Group whose presentation on “Colours in Motion” touched on how colours that were nature-inspired by the formations of fishes in the deep sea, birds’ flying formations in the sky as well as lava eruptions from volcanos. **Mr. Horace Pan** from China and **Ms. Siritip Harntaweewongsa** from Thailand shared useful insights in relation to green, sustainable buildings and its impact to the community. Horace also shared that Hong Kong consciously focuses on cultural sustainability, historical revitalisation and environmental protection, in coming up with designs that are friendly to the community and its surroundings.

The NPYDA 2014 regional winners and other industry professionals were also brought on a historical tour to visit the Nippon Paint Museum in Osaka to further appreciate the company's evolution as a Total Coating Solutions provider. The museum featured ancient colour cards and paint cans that were once used, as well as provided elaborations on the evolution of the paint making process.

NPYDA has grown to a prominent scale from only 87 submissions back in 2008 across Malaysia to 2,303 submissions in 2014 across 10 regional countries. For NPYDA 2015, the competition will be extended to 3 other countries namely Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

For more information on the Nippon Paint Young Designer Award, kindly visit www.youngdesigneraward.com.my/ or www.facebook.com/youngdesigneraward

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Photos (for reference, not in actual size)

1. Caption: Group Chief Executive Officer of Nipsea Group Mr. Wee Siew Kim welcomes the guests and students at NPYDA 2014 Japan Learning Program



(NPYDA2015-51_Photo: 1.77MB)

2. Caption: (From Left to right) Ar. Sarly Adre Sarkum, Mr. Horace Pan, Mr. Wee Siew Kim and Mr. Yaw Seng Heng together with other participants at NPYDA 2014 Japan Learning Program



(NPYDA2015-69_Photo: 2.82MB)

3. Caption: Guest speakers Ar. Sarly Adre Sarkum spoke on green, sustainable designs



(NPYDA2015-250_Photo: 1.01MB)



4. Caption: Malaysian student Wong Kail Li from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) selects a judge for a positive comment with the blue flag and another judge to elaborate on areas of improvement with the red flag.



(NPYDA2015-198_Photo: 1.83 MB)

5. Caption: (Left-Right) Founder of GINGRICH Architect Ar. Kazuma Yamao, Founder of Tomohiro Hata Architect and Associates Ar. Tomohiro Hata and Founder of Sarly Adre Sarkum Architecture Sdn Bhd Ar. Sarly Adre Sarkum during the NPYDA 2014 Japan Learning Program



(NPYDA2015-212_Photo: 2.40MB)



6. Caption: Malaysian student Lim Yong An from KBU International College explains the concept of his Interior Design work which won him the Gold Award in NPYDA 2014 Malaysia.



(NPYDA2015-180_1.69MB)

7. Caption: Mr Yaw Seng Heng, Group Managing Director of Nippon Paint (M) Sdn Bhd



(NPYDA2015-407_980KB)

8. Caption: Mr. Horace Pan (Assistant Professor at the School of Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Vice Chairman of Hong Kong Interior Design Association, Hong Kong) giving his perspectives on sustainable designs within architectures in Hong Kong



(NPYDA2015-79_1.05MB)

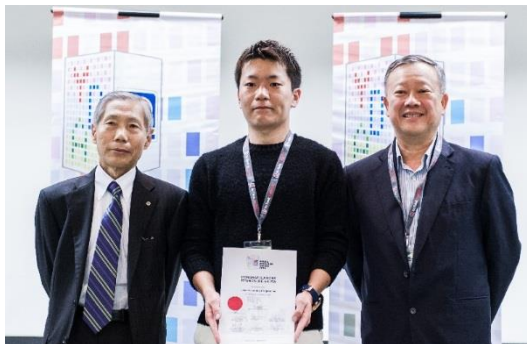


9. Caption: (Left – Right) Founder of Sarly Adre Sarkum Architecture Sdn Bhd Ar. Sarly, Vice Chairman of Hong Kong Interior Design Association Mr. Horace Pan, Co-founder and Director of Sustainable Design at GreenDwell Ms Siritip Harntaweewongsa, and Founder of Tomohiro Hata Architect and Associates Ar. Tomohiro Hata and Founder of GINGRICH Architect Ar. Kazuma Yamao selects Ryonosuke Akuta from Japan (4th from Left) as the overall winner of NPYDA 2014 Japan Learning Program



(NPYDA2015-492_1.41MB)

10. Caption: NPYDA overall winner, Ryonosuke Akuta (Middle) from Osaka City University, Japan receives his awards from Nippon Paint Holdings Co., Ltd Senior Vice President, Mr. Kanji Nishijima (left) and Nippon Paint Malaysia's Group Managing Director , Mr. Yaw Seng Heng (right)



(NPYDA2015-462_1.43MB)

11. Caption: Japanese student Ryonosuke Akuta from Osaka City University and his design – “Sacrifice”



(NPYDA2015-169_Photo: 1.31MB)



12. Caption: NPYDA 2014 Japan Learning Program culminates with a group photo of students from participating countries and invited industry professionals at Osaka, Japan.



(NPYDA2015-486: 2.50MB)

13. Caption: A visit to the Nippon Paint Museum at Osaka that documents historical artefacts of more than 130 years of cultural heritage.



(NPYDA2015-151_Photo: 2.93MB)

14. Caption: A display of Nippon Paint cans in the older days



(NPYDA2015-152_Photo: 3.88MB)



15. Caption: A guide tells the stories of how colours were incorporated into paint



(NPYDA2015-155_Photo: 3.01MB)



About Nippon Paint Malaysia Group

The Nippon Paint Malaysia Group (“NPM Group”) is currently Malaysia’s No. 1 Total Coating Solutions provider, enjoying its market leadership position since 2008. The NPM Group is part of the Nippon Paint Group, which is currently Asia’s No. 1 coating manufacturer spanning 15 countries, built on a heritage of over 130 years dating back to 1881 in Japan.

Established in 1967 as Nippon Paint (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., the company has since grown in leaps and bounds, and today, has emerged as a significant regional player within the coatings industry with presence in countries such as Pakistan, Philippines, Bangladesh, Thailand and Indonesia.

The NPM Group places strong emphasis in Research and Development (R&D) activities, which remains a core priority to its success in product innovation. As a global leader in coating technologies with a database of more than 10,000 paint formulations, the NPM Group prides itself in being a Total Coating Solutions provider with a multi-segment portfolio of offerings ranging from Architectural, Automotive, Industrial, Protective to Marine coatings.

The Group has won consumer choice awards such as the Reader’s Digest Trusted Brand Awards (2006-2014) and Putra Brand Awards (2010-2014), as well as received industry accolades such as the Best Company for Leadership in Paint Technology Asia by IAIR in 2014 and Frost & Sullivan’s Paint & Coatings Company of The Year in 2011. In its concerted effort to champion sustainability towards a greener footprint, the Group has received the Green Label Certification (by the Singapore Environment Council), EcoLabelling Certification Licence (by SIRIM QAS International) and several Green Excellence Awards by Frost & Sullivan.

For more information on Nippon Paint Malaysia:

Website: www.nipponpaint.com.my

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nipponpaintbobbies>

YouTube: www.youtube.com/NipponPaintMalaysia

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