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## Bank honours three in essay challenge

By: Kristene Silva Marie (Thu, 16 Apr 2009)

**STANDARD CHARTERED** Bank Malaysia Berhad recently announced and presented prizes to the top winners of its inaugural Standard Chartered Bank- MOU Universities' Essay Challenge 2008/2009.

The best essays for the challenge entitled "Islamic Banking and its Relevance to My Personal Finances" were from three students, Tan Hon Jian of Universiti Malaya (UM), Nurazlin Abdul Aziz of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) and Ahmad Rahimi Fauzan of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

They each won RM1,500 in a Standard Chartered Saadiq account, but Tan who was adjudged the winner of the Best Overall Essay received an additional RM2,000.

Their essays were chosen from about 500 essays received between Dec 19 last year and March 15 this year. As part of the essay challenge, the three also took part in an Oratory Essay Challenge, where they had to verbally present their points before an audience which included Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who officiated the award presentation.



(From left) Wynter, Nurazlin, Ahmad Zahid and Tan pose after the award presentation.

For the oral challenge, Nurazlin was adjudged the winner and won an additional RM1,500 as her prize.

The competition was jointly organised by Standard Chartered Bank and its Islamic subsidiary Standard Chartered Saadiq Berhad.

It is part of a human resources talent management programme undertaken by the bank following Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed with MU, USM and UiTM.

Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia managing director and CEO Julian Wynter said the essay competition is a way for the bank to demonstrate its commitment to developing talent in the country.

"We are also of course committed to developing Islamic finance and that is why we have given the essay competition an Islamic focus," he said.

"The competition itself was a useful way for Standard Chartered to develop some ideas about young people's perception of Islamic finance."

Wynter added that Standard Chartered may consider including other universities in the future based on the good response received for this initiative.

Commenting on the participation of non-Muslims in Islamic finance, Standard Chartered Saadiq CEO Azrulnizam Abdul Aziz said there has been a significant increase in awareness among the public, be they Muslims or non-Muslims.

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