THREE SCHOOLS FROM KUCHING ADVANCE TO GRAND FINAL

The Unstoppable from SMK St Joseph, Kuching emerged champions of the Kuching leg of the Young Innovate competition.

KUCHING: Three secondary school teams from Kuching will compete in the grand final of the Young Innovate competition in Kuala Lumpur next month after qualifying for the national round.

Form Four students Bryan Ho, Stanislaus Ting, Lee Kai Siang and Clement Goh, who called themselves The Unstoppable, from SMK St Joseph beat 43 teams to emerge champions of the Kuching leg of the competition hosted by Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus recently.

They also won RM3,000 to pursue foundation studies at Swinburne Sarawak.

Team Pyrus from Tunku Putra International School and The Invisible Invincible from SMK Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Gapor were the two runners-up.

All three teams will proceed to the national-level final on Nov 4.

Three other teams were second runners-up – The Legend of PikaPika from Chung Hua Middle School No 1, The Mastermind from SMK Pending and Fishy Team from SMk Sungai Tapang.

Young Innovate is an annual national competition held to inspire passion in science, technology, engineering and mathematics among secondary school students. It also aims to develop their skills in problem-solving and thinking tenacity and expose them to open-source hardware and software.

Competitors' entries had to address real-life problems which they identify through research, surveys and interviews with relevant people in their neighbourhood.

The students went through a two-day boot camp and had three months to propose a solution to the identified problem in the fields of agriculture, automotive, manufacturing or tourism.

Swinburne Sarawak undergraduate students served as mentors to the competing teams, who are from 16 secondary schools.

Tabung Ekonomi Gagasan Anak Bumiputera Sarawak (Tegas), Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd (Sains), Sarawak Energy Bhd and Ta Ann Group were joint sponsors.

Industry experts from Sains, Institution of Engineers Malaysia, Swinburne Sarawak, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and Institution of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Sarawak Subsection made up the panel of judges.

Sains chief operating officer Teo Loon Tong, Tegas manager for TVET promotion and special projects unit Sabatini Jihob and Swinburne Sarawak associate dean for engineering Dr Sim Kwan Yong presented prizes to the winners.