

Bright sparks

YOUNG LEADERS INITIATIVE: Four university students have been selected to represent Malaysia at the 12th Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) to be held in Bangkok, Thailand from July 1-5.

They are Khairunnabihah Zainal Abidin of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), Chang Su Kiat of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Ng Cheon Yuen from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Muhammad Nasrullah Annuar from Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP).

The quartet will join their counterparts from Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan at the regional forum themed The Road Ahead: Asean's Role In Asia And The Global Economy.

The students were selected after passing a rigorous application and evaluation process that included an interview before a panel chaired by International Trade and Industry Ministry (MITI) secretary-general Datuk Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria.

Other members of the Malaysian student selection panel included Education Ministry director-general Datuk Professor Rujhan Mustafa and SME Corporation chief executive officer Datuk Hafsa Hashim.

The students were shortlisted from seven participating universities — University of Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Taylor's University, UPM, USM, Unimas and UTP.

Established by Hitachi Ltd in 1996, HYL aims to identify and groom potential young Asian leaders by providing a platform for bright students to discuss regional issues and establish contacts with prominent regional opinion leaders from the private, public and academic sectors.

Past guests of honour include Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean, Malaysia's former Minister of National Unity and Social Development Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail and Vietnam's former Deputy Prime



(From left) **Chang Su Kiat, Khairunnabihah Zainal Abidin, Ng Cheon Yuen and Muhammad Nasrullah Annuar.**

Minister Vu Khoan.

"Leaders of tomorrow should be able to think critically, have a good grasp of local and regional issues as well as possess the ability to articulate their ideas on specific issues. MITI is supportive of HYL because it provides the opportunity for students to demonstrate their leadership abilities and potential. We hope that programmes like this will receive the support and acknowledgement that it deserves," says Sta Maria Sharifah Arfah