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Wheelchair-bound Yew on her way to be a textile designer



DETERMINED: Yew poses with her credential in Design Technology.

KOTA SAMARAHAN: Physical disability did not dampen the spirit of Ivy Yew to pursue her dream.

About three years ago, she decided to fly here from Johor Bahru to study design technology, a course she said only Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) offered.

Yesterday, she received her scroll from Chief Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud at the university's 17th convocation.

With this, she is well on her journey to becoming a textile designer.

"Although I did not achieve excellent results, I am glad my determination has taken me to where I am," she said when met by reporters outside the convocation hall.

Yew had arthritis at the age of three, and partially lost her mobility. Her health condition, she said, is genetic.

"On a flat path, I have no major problem with moving around. Going up the stairs is a nightmare, meaning I need help from others all the time," said the 22-year-old.

She was glad her friends at Unimas had lent her a helping hand whenever she needed to conquer the stairs.

To a question, she said: "Support from family and friends matters, but I do believe self-determination plays a key part to achieving your target."

Meanwhile, another graduate Nurul Nabila Humaira Kamaruzaman said her love for travelling had brought her to Sarawak, where she completed her degree in biotechnology.

The Kelantan-born 22-year-old lost her parents to a car accident in 2003. Nonetheless, she has been driven to make her parents proud.

She is the second child in her family. All her siblings and sister-in-law shared the proud moment with her yesterday.

Nabila is presently pursuing Master in Science at Unimas. She is also determined to get a PhD before the age of 30 years.

"Hopefully I'll be able to complete my Master studies in two years' time. After that, I may carry on with my PhD," said the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) beneficiary.

She said her elder brother had provided some financial support although she chiefly depended on PTPTN throughout her studies.

Source: The Borneo Post