

## The Nehemiah Design Competition 2012



by Stephen Ng



The winners of Nehemiah Design Competition 2012 with the guest-of-honour, Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, accompanied by Ir Dr Nehemiah Lee Chee Hai and Vice President of INTI Group, Dr Philip Tan Keng Song

**THE** Nehemiah Design Competition moved into its third year and was held at INTI Subang on 8 November 2012. For three consecutive years, the Nehemiah Design Competition had attracted undergraduates throughout the country to participate and solve a real engineering design challenge. Although mainly targeting at civil engineering students, the competition was also open to architecture and design students from institutions of higher learning throughout Malaysia.

This year, 15 student teams were selected as finalists to showcase their ideas of what could be the best structure to permanently solve the frequent flooding of Kampung Baru, a heritage village located very closely to Sungai Kelang in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. The solution would also have to take into consideration of its need to also function as an embankment for the construction of a world class highway. The task follows after both the Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM) and the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (JPS) have collaborated to design a dual-purpose structure that acts as a flood mitigation measure against flooding while supporting a highway above it.

Even though the situation may be the same, it does not mean the solution provided has to be the same. "The students will have to exercise their creativity and innovativeness to propose a holistic solution that is both structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing by incorporating 'green technology' features," explained Founding Chairman of Nehemiah Reinforced Soil Sdn. Bhd., Ir. Dr Nehemiah Lee Chee Hai during the opening speech. He added, "The proposed solution must be practical with emphasis on time and cost savings in view of the impending monsoon season. This also has to take into consideration the space constraints in Kampung Baru".

Y.Bhg. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia, was the guest of honour at the event. The panel of judges comprised mainly of representatives from professional bodies such as The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM), Master Builders Association of Malaysia (MBAM), Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR) and The Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHTMB).

The GEOTECH team from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) emerged the Champion of the Nehemiah Design Competition this year, followed by SANTINEL from INTI International University as the 1st runner up and UTAR C1 from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) as the 2nd runner up. ■

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