

SIA's composer, lyricist are tops in contest

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KOTA KINABALU: The song Kaleidoscope by Eugene Tong How Cheng (composer) and Erica Lee Siau Chee (lyricists) from the Sabah Institute of Art won first prize in this year's Gema Cipta competition which was held at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) on Saturday.

Muhammad Syuwari Sutrisno, a UMS student was awarded second prize followed by another UMS student, Velary Vencent Tian Sim at third place.

A special thanks was given to sponsors. Among them includes the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Datuk Masidi Manjun who sponsored RM2,500 and LB Music for sponsoring a guitar to be presented as a gift to one of the winners.

The Dean from the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage, Prof. Dato Mohd Hamdan Hj Adnan said the competition surely benefits the students who were competing in this competition.

He said that these types of programmes are capable of producing versatile students, who not only excel in academic studies, but also beyond that, and with this, he meant talent where music is concerned which could be further polished through such events.

Hamdan was aiming at high quality performances to the point of reaching international status.

"This can at the same time assist in developing our country's music industry," added Hamdan.



Champions of the Gema Cipta Competition – Eugene Tong How Cheng (composer) and Erica Lee Siau Chee (lyricists)

The Gema Cipta Competition 2014 was officiated by the dean's representative, Suzalie Mohamad.

Resot Iggau, the music programme chief at the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage said that he hoped such events can produce young, talented and high quality composers.

About 37 public and private institutions throughout Sabah participated in the competition with a submission of 51 songs.

However, only 10 participants were selected through a "blind audition" led by Resot Iggau, the music programme chief at the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage.

Other lecturers who were involved in

the selection process include Roslee Haji Wahid, Andrew Poninting, Azmel Satar, Adsone Matthew Mitty Gabu, and Jinky Jane C. Simeon.

In the end, students from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Sabah Institute of Arts (SIA), Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNITAR), and Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus kent (IPG) made it to the finals.

The first prize winners walked away with RM700, a certificate and a trophy. The second prize winner was given RM500, a certificate and a trophy while the third place winner was given RM300, a certificate and a trophy.

The best performance was awarded to Yong Shy Wee, who is also a student at UMS.