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12 picked for national finals

PETALING JAYA: Twelve participants have been selected to compete in the national finals of the fifth English Speaking Union of Malaysia (Esum)-The Star-HSBC Public Speaking Competition 2007.

The two winners at the national finals on April 21 will be taken on an all-expenses-paid trip to London to represent Malaysia at the International Public-Speaking Competition 2007, to be held from May 14 to 17.

The 12 finalists are Darren Sim Soon Beng, Eric Lee, Vui Loong, Heng Wei Ling, Karyn Khor, Koh Siang Boon, Leah Jacqueline Loh, Lee Jia Hui, Nadia Rosli, Nikita Razali, Temily Tianmay Jaya Gopan, Woon King Chai and Yeoh Wan Xin.

They have been selected from about 150 participants who competed in the preliminaries and semi-finals, held simultaneously here and in Penang, Malacca and Kuching on Saturday.

Esum chairman Tunku Dara Tunku Tan Sri Naquiah Tuanku Ja'afar said those who did not make it to the national finals



should not feel disappointed. "More schools have sent their students for the competition as well as the workshops this year. I would like to see more response from the east coast next year," she added.

This year, the venue sponsors for the workshops and preliminary rounds were Methodist College, Kuala Lumpur; KDU College in both Petaling Jaya and Penang; IKIP College, Kuantan; Olympia College, Johor Baru; Inti College Sarawak, Kuching; and Stamford College, Malacca.

The national finals will be held at Berjaya Times Square Hotel & Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

Esum, The Star and HSBC are co-organisers of the competition, which is open to Malaysian students aged between 16 and 20.

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