

Poverty's no hindrance to success

HOME used to be on a Felda oil palm estate in Kota Tinggi but for Suriana Sabri, poverty was no hindrance to academic excellence and eventually, success. Perhaps the fact that she was the only child in a family of seven siblings who made it to university provided another impetus for her to strive for excellence.

Suriana, 22, recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology (Honours) from Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) science and environmental studies faculty with flying colours. She bagged the ICI Dulux award for *Best overall graduate* and took home an ICI Dulux gold coin, cash amounting to RM1,500 and a certificate of achievement.

The company has been sponsoring the ICI Dulux awards for academic excellence over the past 10 years.

The awards are actually part of the company's way of actively promoting the development of knowledge for environmental protection and preservation.

ICI Paints (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd's managing director Datuk Syed Salleh Syed Othman said: "The ICI Dulux award is our way of rewarding young talents who genuinely care for the preservation of the environment."

Suriana attributes her success not only to her dedicated lecturers but also to her technique of studying called mind-mapping. She says that she tries to be completely prepared before an examination.

She is currently pursuing a master's programme in biotechnology and plans to work on her doctoral degree at UPM.

Two other recipients of the ICI Dulux awards were Suriani Sudin (awarded for *Best project in the faculty*) and Siti Aqlima Ahmad (*Best project on environment*). They both received ICI Dulux gold coins, cash amounting to RM1,000 and certificates of achievement respectively.

Suriani Sudin, 23, is currently working as an assistant engineer at Bellcorp, an electronic factory based in Sungai Petani, Kedah.

Siti Aqlima, 22, is pursuing her master's degree in biochemistry at UPM.



(From left) Suriani Sudin, Siti Aqlima Ahmad and Suriana Sabri with the ICI Dulux gold coins that represent the sweet fruits of their success.