FOUR Malaysian university students have been selected to participate in the five-day, ninth Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) in Jakarta, beginning July 7.

The undergrads will share ideas and plans on current regional issues with fellow students from another six nations. The four are Alan Kwan Wai Ming from Universiti Malaysia Sabah, R. Rena Rajadorai and Yom Nurul Akmar Abdul Lahsan from Universiti Putra Malaysia, and Yanti Norafizza Mansor from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

HYLI Malaysian selection panel chairman Datuk Abdul Rahman Mamat told reporters that the programme draws the best young minds from around the region and challenges them to form ideas and plans on overcoming specific current issues affecting the region.

"I'm impressed with the selected students' maturity and ambition to be future leaders of the country," he said.

HYLI is an award-winning regional thought leadership and social responsibility programme organised by Hitachi. Established in 1996, HYLI receives participants from countries such as Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Jakarta event, themed "Strengthening Asian Partnership, Economic Integration and Energy Management," will feature a two-day forum, closed door workshops and community work activities.

Hitachi Asia (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd managing director Koichi Momota said that various activities at the forum would help to foster an innovative spirit and entrepreneurial mindset among the students.

Energy Commission Malaysia chairman Datuk Pian Sukro will be a guest speaker at the forum. He will share his experience and expertise on the need for a sound energy management policy, said Momota. — Bernama