Grooming public speakers

REALISING the need to develop talent and skills apart from just academic excellence among students, Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten) held its second public speaking competition at its premises recently.

The second National Inter-residential Public Speaking Competition saw the participation of Uniten and six other varsities.

The event was organised by Uniten's Murni Students' Society.

Second-year engineering student Nurshahira Mohd Haniffah said organising the competition was a challenging but rewarding experience for the undergraduates as they used a lot of time and effort to promote the event.

"We distributed leaflets, sent invitation letters to other universities and made announcements on Facebook. We also promoted the idea to friends and ex-schoolmates."

Abdul Rahman Mohammed Ali, an international student from Yemen who qualified as a finalist in the competition, was thankful for the experience.

"I've learnt a lot from this competition. It creates a platform for youth like us to speak our minds," he said.

Project advisor Zuraidah Ali said the event would generate more public speakers among undergraduates.

She added that the varsity had a Speaker's Corner and also organised elocution contests.

Uniten, she said, was keen on initiating such competitions in schools so as to create an interest and to groom students to be confident and articulate when speaking before a crowd.

The champion of the competition was Daniel Mohan Jacon of Universiti Putra Malaysia while Tammy Anne Gonsalvez from Uniten emerged first runner-up.

All smiles: Zuraidah (fourth from left) with the competition's judge Navinderan Mageswaran (third from right), Daniel (second from right), Abdul Rahman (second from left), Tammy (third from left) and other winners.