

Headline **Women in science**
Date **05. Jun 2008**
Media Title **The Sun**
Section **Supplement**
Circulation **174179**
Readership **171000**

Language **ENGLISH**
Page No **5**
Article Size **330** cm2
Frequency **Daily**
Color **Full Color**



Women in science

For the third year running, L'Oreal Malaysia will grant fellowship awards to three deserving young female researchers to pursue scientific projects in the country. The L'Oreal Malaysia "For Women in Science" Fellowships is a corporate commitment to provide encouragement and support to women in the field of science.

The fellowship, launched in 2006, is supported by the Malaysian National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) and is in partnership with the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, the Higher Education Ministry and the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry.

At the programme's national level, fellowships are extended to Malaysian women under the age of 35, who are PhD holders and currently pursuing research study in the Life Sciences. Successful applicants will be awarded a RM20,000 grant to pursue research projects based on their proposals that will significantly contribute to the development of the sciences.

"This programme is L'Oreal's way of showing support and recognition to women who are contributing to science," L'Oreal Malaysia corporate communications director Tay Ai Leen said at the launch.

While L'Oreal Malaysia finances the fellowship, the Malaysian National



Associate Prof Dr
Suraini Abd Aziz

below: Crystale Lim
Siew Ying



Commission for Unesco will provide support in matters pertaining to applications and facilitate communications on formalities of the fellowship between candidates and Malaysian authorities.

The three other supporting partners will establish the link with the scientific community and co-ordinate application evaluation procedures.

Malaysia is one of 35 countries to offer the national fellowship under the L'Oreal- Unesco For Women In Science programme.

"Being the first recipient in Malaysia of the fellowship in 2001, I can vouch for the fact that the grant does ease the financial flow," Associate

Professor Dr Suraini Abdul Aziz, who currently lectures in Universiti Putra Malaysia, said.

The senior researcher continues to work on transforming bacteria to produce an enzyme which has industrial potential, a project that began in 2001. Today, a larger scale research project, it collaborates with Felda and institutions in Japan and Korea.

"It's not so much the sum offered, but more about encouraging more women scientists to come forward and excel in science. It may not necessarily contribute only to life sciences, but also other scientific areas such as the development of cosmetic and beauty products," Tay said.

"We spend at least RM100,000 on one project. When I found out the award was being offered, I thought it was a good opportunity for me to source for funds for my project. We are constantly looking for sponsors to fund our projects, so this award was indeed a blessing," said Crystale Lim Siew Ying, a recipient in 2006, who currently conducts research on fungus.

The closing date for applications is Aug 31. The proposed area of study must be submitted with an application form which can be obtained from the Secretariat of the Malaysian National Commission for Unesco or at www.loreal.com.my. Applications are to be addressed to the Jury President for submission.

Representatives from all supporting institutions will sit on the jury panel. The successful applicants will be announced at an awards ceremony in October.



Tay Ai Leen

For more information, call Unesco at 03-8884 6122 or log on to www.loreal.com.my