

# Art students win trip to Beijing for science show

ATIQA MAT SENIN AND MURNIATI ABU KARIM  
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**T**wo students from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Tun Abdul Razak, Sarawak were crowned as champions at the recent 2018 Petrosains Science Show Competition. Showcasing a scientific theory on why honeycombs are hexagonal, Pink Rakim and Carlos Tinos Kirip, both 18, also took home the best presenters award.

The duo, who called themselves Mysterious Hexagon, won a trip to the China Science and Technology Museum in Beijing, RM10,000 cash prize, a trophy and certificates.

Curious about honeycombs, Pink said: "We were fascinated by this and wondered about the hexagonal shapes made by bees. This sparked our interest in finding out more about the natural phenomenon."

"Based on our readings, we found out that hexagons are the strongest shape to hold the honeycombs together. Using triangles, squares and circles would leave gaps between the honeycombs making it easy to collapse," he added.

Pink and Carlos Tinos stole the show with their hands-on experiment and clear demonstration which was easily understood by the audience. Interestingly, both of them are arts

stream students.

According to team coordinator and Chemistry teacher Tchong Fui Mui, one of her challenges is that both students have little background in the science subject. However for her, learning science does not stop in school, it is actually something that can be learned in everyday life.

"Both of them needed guidance to explore and understand the topic. Besides, they are in the middle of preparing their coursework for Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM) so, time management is crucial.

"They were willing to take up the challenge and join a science competition which is something outside their comfort zone. That really made me proud," she said.

Pink also said: "Both of us share the same dormitory room and we would rehearse our lines together in our free time including while doing our laundry."

"However, we still need to keep up our academic so that we don't fall behind in class. Besides, both of us are quite busy preparing our STPM coursework," he said.

The Education Ministry's director of Education Planning, Policy and Research Division Ahmad Rafee Che



(From left) Pink Rakim, Carlos Tinos Kirip and Tchong Fui Mui from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Tun Abdul Razak, Sarawak who won the 2018 Petrosains Science Show Competition.

Kassim was at the final showdown together with Petrosains chief executive officer Fedora Zulkifli, a panel of judges from Universiti Putra Malaysia, Sunway University, and management personnel from Petrosains. Bank Islam is a collaborator and co-sponsor for this competition.

In his speech, Ahmad Rafee said: "The creation of a scientific and progressive nation which will produce skilled

workforce in science and technology has been identified as an important component in the development and economic growth of the country."

In its tenth year, the annual competition was first held by Petrosains in 2009 to support the nation's education agenda in popularising science and promoting effective learning methods in science for students.

During the finals, eight secondary

schools battled it out to creatively present a science show performance consisting of an experiment or demonstration to illustrate a scientific theory they have learnt.

Awards at the competition included Best Script Award, WOW Demonstration Award, Most Promising Talent, Social Media Award, and Bank Islam's Special Award for School with Highest Number of Participation.