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PREPARING DIGITAL CITIZENS TO STAY SAFE IN CYBERSPACE

Inaugural National ICT Security Debate – CyberSAFE Challenge Trophy 2013 to Raise Awareness on Cyber Safety

KUALA LUMPUR (14 November 2013) – Sekolah Menengah Agama Persekutuan, Kajang, Selangor emerged as the champion of Malaysia's first ever National-level ICT Security Debate – CyberSAFE Challenge Trophy 2013. The debaters from Sekolah Menengah Agama Persekutuan, Kajang beat those from seven other participating schools to win the coveted challenge trophy, RM2,000 and certificates. This debate is part of a series of activities under CyberSAFE - a program to raise awareness on the importance of cyber safety and personal information security in Malaysia. It encourages both students and teachers to be more responsible in using the Internet and other online technologies.

The National ICT Security Debate was initiated by CyberSecurity Malaysia, an agency under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and organised in collaboration with MOSTI and the Ministry of Education (MOE). This competition is designed to empower students to understand, explore, and critically challenge complex issues related to cyber security. It is also intended to make cyber safety learning process and CyberSAFE awareness initiative more interesting so that students can absorb the knowledge faster and develop good habits when using the Internet.

"In line with our national cyber security policy's strategic thrusts, CyberSecurity Malaysia endeavours to develop, foster and maintain a culture of cyber security at the national level. It is hoped that through these national ICT debates, young Malaysians will learn to become responsible digital citizens who are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills to be stay cyber-safe," said General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Panglima Mohd Azumi Mohamed (Retired), Chairman, Board of Directors, CyberSecurity Malaysia.

"It is our vision that each and every Malaysian will use the Internet positively, responsibly and ethically," he added.

Meanwhile Dr. Amirudin Abdul Wahab, the Chief Executive Officer of CyberSecurity Malaysia said, "As Malaysia transitions toward a knowledge-based economy, it is vital that the government, corporate sectors as well as the education community forge a unified path forward towards establishing a formal, cyber security education for all Malaysians. Information technology forms the very core of a nation's development capability, and therefore we need to nurture a cyber-capable workforce that is savvy in cyber security."

A total of eight teams from eight zones comprising secondary school students competed in the finals (see attached list of finalist representing their respective zones). The finalists qualified through preliminary rounds held since October 2013 in their respective zones across Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia. The participants were presented with various debate topics that focus on Internet safety, online ethics, cyber security threats and privacy issues.

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Securing Our Cyberspace

"We are buoyed by the good response received from this year's CyberSAFE Challenge Trophy Debate. As such, plans are already in place for a 2014 edition which will be opened to more schools and perhaps universities too, and will involve a larger student participation," added Dr. Amirudin.

For more details, please visit www.cybersecurity.my.

~ End~

Attachment: List of Finalists

Zone	Name of School/Winner that will represent the zone to the final round in Kuala Lumpur
East Coast: Terengganu, Kelantan, Pahang	SMK Alor Akar, Kuantan Pahang
Sarawak	Kolej Datu Patinggi Abang Haji Abdillah
Central 1: (Selangor)	Sekolah Agama Per. Kajang
Central 2: (Kuala Lumpur)	Sekolah Alam Shah
Southern: Johor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka	Sekolah Dato' Abdul Razak, Negeri Sembilan
Northern 1: Kedah, Perlis	SMK Sultan Badli Shah, Kulim, Kedah
Northern 2: Perak, Pulau Pinang	SMK Agama Al-Irshad, Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang.
Sabah	SMK Pengiran Omar, Sipitang, Sabah.

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