



MEDIA RELEASE

CYBERSECURITY MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL ICT SECURITY DISCOURSE ENTERS ITS TENTH YEAR, SET TO RAISE CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS & DIGITAL LITERACY AMONG STUDENTS & TEACHERS

KUALA LUMPUR (13 September 2023) – CyberSecurity Malaysia, the national cyber security specialist and technical agency under the purview of the Ministry of Communications & Digital, calls for students to build upon the knowledge and experiences gained from participating in its 10th National ICT Security Discourse (NICTSeD) CyberSAFE Challenge Trophy 2023 to further strengthen Malaysia's cyber defense and resilience. Building cyber resilience involves practicing holistic cyber hygiene, from implementing best cyber security practices to continuous learning, collaboration, and information sharing.

Launched in 2013, NICTSeD underwent a transformative journey, transitioning from a national ICT security debate competition for secondary schools into a discourse where participants engage in structured arguments. Celebrating its 10-year milestone, the 2023 Grand Finals carrying the theme "Weaponizing AI: Its Impact On Our Society" was officiated by YB Teo Nie Ching, Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital.

NICTSeD is jointly organised by CyberSecurity Malaysia and Educational Resources and Technology Division (BSTP) of Ministry of Education, with support from the Ministry of Communications and Digital. A total of 133 schools participated in NICTSeD 2023.

According to General Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr.) Haji Zulkifeli Mohd Zain (Retired), Chairman, Board of Directors of CyberSecurity Malaysia, a total of 693 schools have taken part in NICTSeD since its inception in 2013, with participation from 2,264 students nationwide. The discourse requires students to conduct analysis, research and comparison for their understanding and highlighting issues related to a specific topic. Team members are also required to answer questions posed by a Panel of Experts (POE).

"By fostering critical thinking, effective communication, and teamwork, NICTSeD is formulated towards a holistic student development, which is aligned with the overall strategic objectives of our Malaysian Education Blueprint 2013-2025. NICTSeD also provides a platform for students to enhance their analytical skills, deepen their understanding of cybersecurity, and prepare them for the future challenges of the digital age," said Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr.) Haji Zulkifeli.

Based on the latest cyber security incidents report by CyberSecurity Malaysia's Cyber999 Cyber Incident Response Center, 3,837 incidents were recorded from January to August 2023, with the top four being Fraud (2,400), Intrusion (396), Content Related (378) and Malicious Code (359). In 2022, a total of 7,292 incidents were reported.

Tan Sri Haji Zulkifeli described the Grand Finals topic as timely as it exposes the finalists on the evolution of cyber security and the imminent reality of ultra-sophisticated cyber threats impacting the society. "The NICTSeD competition platform will help students cultivate a creative mindset and increase their critical thinking skills on current issues related to the Internet and technological advancement," he added.

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) technology, especially Generative AI, has brought about significant advancements across key industries and sectors. However, cybercriminals are also leveraging on Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to hack passwords, leak confidential information and scam users across various platforms. With AI, cyber attackers can produce sophisticated malware and fraudulent activities that causes data breaches, financial losses, and reputational damage.

Three schools successfully advanced to the grand finals, Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Aminuddin Baki, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Sekolah Seri Puteri, Selangor and Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kota Kemuning, Selangor.

Sekolah Sekolah Seri Puteri, Selangor emerged as champions of NICTSeD 2023. The winning team was presented with the prestigious CyberSAFE Challenge Cup, RM5,000 worth of cash and certificates. The first-runner up Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Aminuddin Baki, Wilayah Persekutuan received cash and certificates worth RM3,000; while second-runner Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kota Kemuning walked away with cash and certificates worth RM1,500.

Finalists of NICTSeD 2023 walk away with one tablet each sponsored by Huawei Technologies (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., whereas best presenter receives additional iPad Air courtesy of Tech Capacity Sdn. Bhd.

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