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PRESS RELEASE

Irish Ambassador launches prestigious writing award for young Malaysians

H.E. Declan Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland, announces the launch of a prestigious essay writing competition.

The eighth Dublin Literary Award Essay Competition for Young Malaysians will be launched at the National Library on Friday, 25 February 2010, 3.00 pm in the Main Auditorium, National Library of Malaysia, 232 Jalan Tun Razak, 50572 Kuala Lumpur.

The competition is open to all schools in Malaysia. It will see entrants from across the country competing to win a trip for two to Dublin to attend the prize giving ceremony of the world's richest book prize, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards. Substantial cash prizes will be given to runners up and the school winner.

The competition is organised with the support of National Library, Malaysia, the Ministry of Education, Malaysia, and the Star Newspaper.

It also receives major backing from a coalition of sponsors: the Irish Universities and Medical Schools Consortium (IUMC); The Kerry Group, an Irish world-leader in food ingredients and flavours; ESB International, the international arm of Ireland's main electricity supply company; Etihad Airways; Education in Ireland; the St Patrick's Society of Selangore; and the Malaysia Ireland Alumni Association.

The Ambassador of Ireland, Declan Kelly, said that "It is a pleasure for the Embassy to be associated with this essay competition. It provides a great opportunity for young Malaysians to demonstrate their writing skills in English in an imaginative and creative way."

He added that "This is perhaps the best ever year to undertake a literary visit to Dublin. Our capital has just been named a UNESCO city of literature.

The Ambassador also thanked the Director General of the National Library, Dato Raslin Abu Bakar, for the library's support adding that "We believe that the idea behind the essay competition, to get young people to use their creative skills and imagination, complements the excellent work undertaken by the national library".

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