

'Science has a lot to offer'



Joyful news: (From left) Oh, Siti Fatimah, Mohammed Daniel, Maragatham and Afiq celebrating their selection for the research programmes in Europe.

Five M'sians chosen for European programmes

By **SHAUN HO**

newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Science offers unlimited possibilities, say undergraduates who encouraged others to take up the field.

Universiti Malaya final-year physics student Afiq Aizuddin Anuar, 22, said science drove civilisations to prosper.

"Science benefits mankind," said Afiq, who is from Tanjung Malim.

His interest in science paid off when he was among five young Malaysian scientists selected to go overseas to conduct research.

University of Nottingham Malaysia campus doctorate student Oh Pin Pin, 27, said parents should expose their children to the sciences to spark their interest.

"By taking up science, you can enter a wider field compared to your counterparts who take up the arts.

"Because science makes you think, you can still be a businessman if you study science. We deal with science every day," said Oh, who is from Penang and is also a researcher at the Malaysian Palm Oil Board.

Siti Fatimah Raihan, 21, said youths should not think of science only in terms of physics or chemistry.

"Humans have a natural instinct to learn about themselves and what happens around them. Everything we see comes from science and it is for the betterment of mankind.

"Science is challenging but is also very

rewarding," said Siti Fatimah, a third-year physics student at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Afiq, Siti Fatimah and Universiti Putra Malaysia physics student Mohammed Daniel Davis Muhammed, 23, were selected to participate in the two-month European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) Summer Student Programme in Geneva, Switzerland.

Meanwhile, Oh and Malaysian Nuclear Agency research officer Maragatham Kumar, 30, were selected for the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis Young Scientists Summer Programme in Vienna, Austria, for three months.

Academy of Sciences Malaysia president Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali announced the participation of the five at the academy here yesterday.

They will join other young scientists from around the world in the prestigious research programmes.

Dr Ahmad Tajuddin called on more Malaysians to take up science and mathematics. "If not, we will lose our capability to innovate and capitalise on science and technology."



<http://thestar.com.my/isnap>