



AUSTRALIA-MALAYSIA BUSINESS COUNCIL
of South Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

Outstanding student from Penang
wins prestigious Merdeka Award

Saturday August 30, 2008. Australia-Malaysia Business Council of South Australia (AMBCSA) State Chapter President Mr. Aemel Nordin announced today that the Patron's Award for Excellence for the 2008 Merdeka Awards was presented to Miss Wan Ilma Dewiputri Wan Burhanuddin, a Penang born student studying at Adelaide University.

Mr Nordin said that Miss Wan Ilam, who is currently in her final year of a Bachelor of Science (Honours) Degree, was an outstanding student and a deserving recipient of the Patron's Award for Excellence.

The Merdeka Awards are awarded each year by the AMBCSA during its celebrations of Malaysia's Independence (Merdeka) Day.

The Merdeka Awards were established in 1998 by the AMBCSA to recognise the top 3 final year Malaysian students studying in South Australia. The objectives of the Awards include encouraging Malaysian students to excel not only in their academic achievements, but to also encourage them to be an all rounder.

Mr Nordin added that "the judging criteria places equal importance on a student's extracurricular activities and how well he or she has interacted with the diverse South Australian community and the efforts to which a student has strived to impart and share his or her Malaysian heritage and culture whilst studying abroad."

Other Merdeka Awards recipients this year include Mr Chan Yee Hon from Kuching, who is completing his Bachelor of Medical Science at Flinders University and Miss Ng Chia Ying from Kedah who is in her final year of Bachelor of Medical Radiation (Diagnostic) at the University of South Australia.

Continues...

Merdeka Awards Patron, Sir Eric Neal, AC CVO, Chancellor of Flinders University and former Governor of South Australia, said “I am pleased to acknowledge the contribution of the AMBCSA to the South Australia-Malaysia relationship over the past decade through its Merdeka Awards which recognise outstanding final year students from Malaysia at South Australia's three major universities. These students represent the potential future leaders of the professions, of business and of government in Malaysia, and their already strong ties with South Australia are reinforced by the Awards. I extend my congratulations to the AMBCSA for this unique, and continuing initiative.”

AMBC National President, Mr Chan Wee Keat said that the Merdeka Awards, now in its 10th year, has built a reputation of recognizing excellence and outstanding achievements. It is now seen as a prestigious Award that is coveted by Malaysian students studying in South Australia, and recognized by potential employers as a clear indication of the leadership, outward looking and high achieving characteristics of the recipients.

Mr Chan also paid tribute to the support given to the Merdeka Awards since its inception by Sir Eric Neal, and the many civic minded MNCs who are Corporate Patrons of the AMBCSA - amongst them Malaysia Airlines, Polyaire Group, YTL related company ElectraNet, Norman Waterhouse Lawyers, BMW Adelaide, SAFCOL, Wagners Global Services and Lynas Corporation.

“AMBCSA has been able to build the reputation of the Merdeka Awards on the credibility of the Awards Patron and these supporting organizations. Their foresight and generosity deserve as much recognition as the Awards recipients each year”, said Mr Chan.

ENDS

Issued by Australia-Malaysia Business Council of South Australia

Media Enquiries:

Mr. Joe Perri
Joe Perri & Associates Pty Ltd
Telephone/Fax: +61 3 9324 0362
Mobile: +61 412 112 545
Email: jperri@joeperri.com.au