

UNIMAS students won NASA Space Apps Sarawak 2022

Kuching, 11 October 2022 – Universiti Malaysia Sarawak students became champion in the Senior Category at the NASA Space Apps Sarawak Challenge, announced today at the TEGAS Digital Village. Space Apps Challenge is a 48 hour global hackathon event organised by NASA to inspire local communities to come together, think intensely, and create solutions to important problems. This is part of a coordinated event for the entire state of Sarawak, organised by the Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development, Sarawak and Realfun Learning Centre Miri. There are four locations for this year: Bintulu, Kuching, Miri and Sibul.

Melvin Jangga anak Rupitan, Angeline Sambun anak Kilee, Michellia Elma anak Mancha and Betsy Pati, all fourth-year undergraduate students from the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology brought home RM7,000 cash prize and certificates. Their team called Dirty Bits beat four other teams from the same category in the finals with their gamified learning website to guide young audiences to learn about Parker Solar Probe in a fun and engaging way.

Besides winning the champion title, team member Melvin Jangga also won iPhone 13 mini after obtaining the highest points in the gamification system developed by Space Apps Challenge. Points were collected by participants through various activities such as attending workshops, participating in games or quizzes, joining roadshows and many more.

Dirty Bits will be among the 12 teams who will move forward to the Global Nomination round to be reviewed by NASA executives and subject matter experts. Last year, team Change Maker from SMK Bintulu was awarded the Global Award of Best Use of Technology by the International NASA Space Apps 2021.



YB Datuk Roland Sagah Wee Inn presenting the awards to team Dirty Bits



From left: Melvin Jangga and Angeline (Software Engineering), Betsy (Information System) and Michellia Elma (Computational Science)