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DLSU teams lead Filipino winners in Shell Eco-Marathon

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Four teams from the Philippines received top awards in the Shell Eco- Marathon (SEM) Asia 2016, their energy-efficient cars hurdling the challenge of what car can go the farthest on one liter of fuel or its equivalent from an alternative source of energy.

Two teams from the De La Salle University (DLSU), Mapua Institute of Technology, and the University of San Carlos received their awards at the lively ceremonies held at the Manila Hotel Sunday evening.

Two teams from DLSU took top honors in the Urban Concept category –Team DLSU Eco Car Team-Battery Electric took first place in the Battery-Electric subcategory, and Team DLSU Eco Car Team-I.C.E. bagged second place in the Petrol Fuel subcategory.



YOUNG, BRILLIANT MINDS – Members of the De La Salle University Eco Car Team receives the top prize in the battery-electric Urban Concept Category at the Shell Eco-Marathon Asia 2016 awards night Sunday at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. Team DLSU was the only Philippine entry which won a top prize this year that earned members an invitation to compete at the World Drivers Championship in London in July. (Federico Cruz)

DLSU's battery-electric car recorded a distance of 78km/kW per hour; while its I.C.E. car ran 158/km/liter. Vehicles in the Urban Concept category have four wheels.

PROTOTYPE CATEGORY

Team Aguila from the Mapua Institute of Technology was awarded second place in the Petrol Fuel subcategory under Prototype cars, recording 335km/l.

Taking third place in the same Prototype category (diesel fuel subcategory) was Team Lahutay 4 from the University of San Carlos, recording a distance of 160km/l.

The most remarkable distance achieved by a student-team was 2,040 km per liter – or the distance from Manila to Bangkok. That got first place in the Prototype Alternative Fuel category for Team How Much Ethanol from Panjavidhya Technological College, Thailand.

In the Urban Concept category, Team LH-Gold Energy from Vietnam drove its way to the top after covering a distance of 164.4 km on a liter of ethanol.

Meanwhile, Team Sadewa from Universitas Indonesia more than doubled last year's winning result and recorded 275km/l in the Urban Concept Shell FuelSave Gasoline category.

PHILIPPINE TEAMS

The Philippines had the largest contingent of 28 teams among the 100 teams from 17 countries

in Asia, Australia, Middle East and Africa. This year is the final leg of the SEM Asia in the Philippines.

Other Filipino teams are students from the Ateneo de Davao University, City of Bogo Science and Arts Academy, Far Eastern University Institute of Technology, Malayan Colleges Laguna, New Era University, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, National University, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Polytechnic University of the Philippines–Manila, Central Colleges of the Philippines, Don Bosco Technical College–Mandaluyong, Cebu Institute of Technology, University of Mindanao, University of the Philippines-Diliman, Technological Institute of the Philippines-Quezon City and Manila, University of the East, and the University of Santo Tomas.

SEM is a competition that challenges students from universities across the world to design, build and drive the most energy efficient cars that can run the farthest on a liter of fuel or alternative source of energy. It also celebrates ideas and innovation, up and coming engineers, designers and inventors, and cutting-edge thinking about energy and mobility.

The teams, who were allowed to be as creative as possible in coming up with their cars' technical and design aspects, were judged by the mileage achieved on a liter of fuel. The winners in each category as well as in each fuel class were awarded with US\$2,000 for their school.

OFF-TRACK AWARDS

In addition to the 24 On-Track awards, teams also competed for five Off-Track Awards that tested their technical and creative skills, as well as their approach to safety and sustainability.

Two student-teams from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore won four of the five off-track awards, with Team NTU 3D-Printed Car bringing home the Communications and Safety awards. They share the Vehicle Design award with Team NSTRU Eco-Racing from Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University, Thailand.

Team Nanyang E-Drive received the award for Technical Innovation for their application of a unique battery fire suppression system.

The fifth off-track award winner was Team BITS from Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), India, who won the Perseverance and Spirit of the Event award.

Last year, Team Virgin from Thailand shone in the Prototype category for going a distance of 1,572 km on a liter of ethanol (alternative fuel).

DRIVER'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

In the next SEM later this year, the most significant change will be the introduction of the Drivers' World Championship. The drivers will go head-to-head in a traditional racing car format while still aiming for fuel efficient records. The prize – a week with Scuderia Ferrari at their factory in Italy.

Based on the last SEM results, four Urban Concept teams have qualified for the Drivers' World Championship that will be held at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London later this year.

The qualified teams are the DLSU Eco Car Team – Battery Electric from the Philippines; Team Sadewa, ITS Team 2, and Team Bumi Siliwangi Team 4 from Indonesia. Joining them as the wildcard pick will be Team NTU 3D-Printed Car from Singapore.