



News Release  
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## YOUNG DESIGNERS TO COMPETE IN ASIA LEAGUE

Two Gold winners triumph over 700 entries to win the 8<sup>th</sup> Young Designer Award

**Kuala Lumpur, 19 November 2015** – Malaysia’s leading total coatings solution provider, Nippon Paint Malaysia Group (“Nippon Paint”), together with IJM Land Berhad (“IJM Land”) announced the winners of the 8<sup>th</sup> Nippon Paint Young Designer Award (NPYDA) 2015 themed, **“Design with Heart: For a Sustainable Future: With People in Mind”**. NPYDA is a platform to nurture the skills and talents of aspiring designers in architectural and interior designing, which saw more than 700 submissions from 38 participating universities and colleges in Malaysia.

Tan Kwon Chong from University Teknologi Malaysia emerged as the Gold Award winner who also bagged the Best Colour Choice and Best Green Innovation award in the Architectural Design Category while Ong Kian Gee from Malaysian Institute of Art won the Gold Award and Best Green Innovation award in the Interior Design Category. Both were presented with RM3,000 cash each together with a 6 months paid internship by IJM Land Berhad. Apart from these prizes, the winners will also be given the opportunity to learn from experts in the field of design and to ultimately compete with other regional winners in the Grand Finale of NPYDA 2015, which will be held in Bangkok early next year, during the Learning Programme.

Tan Kwon Chong, Gold Winner of the Architectural Category said, **“My heart has always been for the people and the natural environment at Pontian Kechil, a fishing village in Johor. This has truly inspired me to design a recreational park that infuses both communal communication as well as green, sustainability elements in its concept. My design not only aims to highlight the natural beauty of its surrounding and promotes community engagement, I hope that the eco-learning market centre can also further educate the public on the sustainable living culture of the fishing village.”**

Ong Kian Gee, Gold Winner of the Interior Design Category said, **“The theme ‘Design With Heart’ has encouraged me to think of the less privileged group of people within our society, and that’s how the idea of a ‘Homeless Centre’ was born. They too, deserve a roof over the head, and a place they can call home. My design focused on transforming an abandoned railway station into a place which seeks to empower the dwellers yet incorporating green,**

***sustainable interior design features such as the reuse of materials and elements that reduces resources or energy consumption.”***

For NPYDA 2015, the theme ***“Design With Heart: For a Sustainable Future: With People in Mind”*** is tailored to inspire young interior designers and architects in birthing new and refreshing concepts that infuse convenience, practicality and purpose into our living, working and leisure spaces. This challenges the designers to think of design concepts that will benefit people from all walks of life - including the elderly, the young and the physically challenged.

Ms. Gladys Goh, Group General Manager, Nippon Paint Malaysia Group said during the awards ceremony, ***“At Nippon Paint, we believe that the ‘Design With Heart’ theme is indeed very timely in today’s design industry. We now live in more complex times than before; where demands are continuously increasing and changing. It’s no longer about just looking great - but there is a critical need to create suitable buildings or spaces that is functional, yet caring and thought through for different groups of dwellers.”***

***“We are certainly delighted to see the young and talented rise up to achieve not only good but great designs, and to constantly push for a new frontier in design excellence. This is the exact reason for the birth of NPYDA: to provide a platform for them to shine and to nurture the next generation of designers,”*** added Goh.

The Nippon Paint Young Designer Award (NPYDA) is the premier design competition for interior design and architecture students across Asia. Currently in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, NPYDA was introduced in 2008 in Malaysia and has witnessed increased popularity year after year. To date, the award has extended its presence across 12 countries namely, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Papua New Guinea.

NPYDA has managed to bring on board reputable and renowned industry professionals as judges for the competition, who keenly filter through each masterpiece to select the most creative and innovative architectural or interior design.

***“Generally, we could see the theme coming through the competition theme, “Design With Heart”. We can see everyone putting their heart into their submissions and they really did their best to produce something spectacular. And some of the design concepts that we saw this year were community-based – such as community buildings, flood areas or facilities - so we do clearly observe how they integrate design with a caring element,”*** said Chief Judge for the Architectural Design Category, Ar. Jasmeet Singh Sidhu.

On the Interior Design Category, Chief Judge, Ms. Fendarie Su Pek Fuang said, ***“This year’s submissions are actually very different from what we saw last year – the quality of entries has greatly improved. There is indeed a lot of good quality entries, especially when it came to the Top 24 finalists. I believe that the judges definitely had a hard time because we spent quite a bit of time to deliberate on who will be the winners of NPYDA 2015.”***

NPYDA provides the winners an established platform to begin their promising career in architecture and interior design. Former winners have moved forward to becoming reputable architects and interior designers in their field - from being attached to globally-recognised architectural firms to taking on leadership roles.

In addition to the panel of judges that comprise of industry veterans, NPYDA 2015 also invited two of its past winners, Lim Meng Yeu and Lim Min Syn as guest judges. According to Mr Lim Meng Yeu, winning NPYDA, an established award further enhanced his credibility in the design scene whilst opening more doors for him to share his thoughts with like-minded people.

***“It’s not an easy task to sit on the judging panel, alongside other distinguished professionals in the design industry. Many entries showcased good design intentions and concepts, but some entries truly demonstrate that they ‘Design With Heart’, as the care, love and empathy comes through in the concept and functionality of the given spaces,”*** said Mr Lim Min Syn on the entries this year.

Edward Chong Sin Kiat, Managing Director of IJM Land Berhad expressed, ***“At IJM Land, we are equally passionate as Nippon Paint in sparking sustainable, innovative and creative thinking among youth today. It has always been our commitment to support the dreams and aspiration of our future, creative leaders. This is paramount and necessary for our future, as we groom and nurture the leaders of tomorrow. It is certainly an honour and privilege for us to be a part of NPYDA once again this year. I believe NPYDA has grown from strength to strength as it is now one of Asia’s premier design competitions. It is my sincere wish that this platform will continue to produce the next generation of socially conscious and responsible designers that are relevant for today and tomorrow’s architecture and design scene.”***

NPYDA also receives the support from various industry associations and partners such as the Malaysian Institute of Interior Designers (MIID), Green Building Index Organisation (GBI), Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB), Real Estate and Housing Developers Association Youth Malaysia (REHDA Youth), Malaysia Green Building Confederation (MGBC), as well as the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (Kementerian Tenaga, Teknologi Hijau dan Air – KETTHA).

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## **About Nippon Paint Malaysia Group**

The Nippon Paint Malaysia Group (“NPM Group”) is currently Malaysia’s No. 1 Total Coating Solutions provider, enjoying its market leadership position since 2008. The NPM Group is part of the Nippon Paint Group, which is currently Asia’s No. 1 coating manufacturer spanning 15 countries, built on a heritage of over 130 years dating back to 1881 in Japan.

Established in 1967 as Nippon Paint (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., the company has since grown in leaps and bounds, and today, has emerged as a significant regional player within the coatings industry with presence in countries such as Pakistan, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Thailand and Indonesia.

The NPM Group places strong emphasis in Research and Development (R&D) activities, which remains a core priority to its success in product innovation. As a global leader in coating technologies with a database of more than 10,000 paint formulations, the NPM Group prides itself in being a Total Coating Solutions provider with a multi-segment portfolio of offerings ranging from Architectural, Automotive, Industrial, Protective to Marine coatings.

The Group has won consumer choice awards such as the Reader’s Digest Trusted Brand Awards (2006-2015) and Putra Brand Awards (2010-2015), as well as received industry accolades such as the Best Company for Leadership in Paint Technology Asia by IAIR in 2014 and Frost & Sullivan’s Paint & Coatings Company of The Year in 2011. In its concerted effort to champion sustainability towards a greener footprint, the Group has received the Green Label Certification (by the Singapore Environment Council), EcoLabelling Certification Licence (by SIRIM QAS International) and several Green Excellence Awards by Frost & Sullivan.

### ***For more information on Nippon Paint Malaysia:***

Website: [www.nipponpaint.com.my](http://www.nipponpaint.com.my)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nipponpaintblobbies](https://www.facebook.com/nipponpaintblobbies)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/NipponPaintMalaysia](https://www.youtube.com/NipponPaintMalaysia)

Toll free no: 1-800-88-2663

## **About IJM Land Berhad**

IJM Land Berhad (“IJM Land”), the property development arm of IJM Corporation Berhad, has garnered a reputation as one of Malaysia’s premier property developers. Through the years, IJM Land is honoured to have shaped Malaysia’s township landscape and built thriving communities that are well into the future.

The company’s vast portfolio includes townships, sustainable developments, iconic waterfront community, luxury homes, landed and high-rise residences, offices and commercial properties in prime areas of Penang, Pahang, the Greater Kuala Lumpur, Seremban, Johor, Sabah and

Sarawak. *IJM Land has a total of 4,500 acres of undeveloped landbank, with a gross development value (GDV) of RM30bil spanning across Malaysia, Vietnam, China and United Kingdom.*

The spirit of innovation and dedication that's synonymous with IJM Land has won the company several awards and accolades, including the prestigious FIABCI World Prix D'Excellence Awards and FIABCI Malaysia Property Awards for THE LIGHT Waterfront Penang, BCI Asia Top 10 Developer Awards (Malaysia), The Edge Top Property Developers Awards, MSWG-Asean Corporate Governance Industry Excellence (Property) Award, International Property Awards for Asia Pacific and Putra Brand Awards. For more information, visit [www.ijmland.com](http://www.ijmland.com)

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***Issued by Perspective Strategies. For media enquiries, please contact:***

Tel: 03 - 7491 3138, Fax: 03 - 7733 3138

Joshua Lim, Mr

Email : [joshua.lim@perspective.com.my](mailto:joshua.lim@perspective.com.my)

Mobile: 012 – 773 8433

Sam Jo Lene, Ms

Email : [jolene.sam@perspective.com.my](mailto:jolene.sam@perspective.com.my)

Mobile: 016 – 4833 801

Tan May Lee, Ms

Email : [maylee.tan@perspective.com.my](mailto:maylee.tan@perspective.com.my)

Mobile: 012 – 2928 611