

PRESS RELEASE

AITI AWARDS 'STAR' STUDENTS AND WORKERS DURING 'WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY (WTISD)' CELEBRATION

17 May 2008 – To commemorate this year's World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), the **Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AITI)**, gave away Awards to high academic achievers and star workers categorized under 'Special Needs'. The celebration is in line with this year's WTISD theme: "**Connecting Persons With Disabilities: ICT Opportunities For All**".

This celebration was jointly supported by the Special Education Unit of Ministry of Education, Land Transport Department of Ministry of Communication, Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru), DST Group, B-Mobile Sdn Bhd, CfBT Learning Centre, Infocom Federation of Brunei (IFB), Anakbrunei.org and Ranoadidas.com.

The event was held at the Sutera Hall, Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong. Around 200 people attended the ceremony and amongst the guests were Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Heads of Government and Corporate Agencies, Heads of ICT Companies, Community Centres and Education Providers.

The welcoming remarks were delivered by the **Chief Executive of AITI, Pengiran Haji Mohd Zain bin Pengiran Haji Abd Razak**. The guest of honour for the event was **The Honourable, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Communications**, who also made his opening remarks and officiated the ceremony with a multimedia entitled "Narrowing The Digital Divide".

The guest of honour later presented awards to the following recipients:

1. Ten (10) students, nominated by the Special Education Unit, received awards in the form of **personal computers** and **Certificates of Academic Achievement from AITI**. The said recipients also received free Introductory ICT Training provided by the IFB. *Names and description of achievement are as attached in Appendix 1.*
2. Nine (9) staff who are categorized as 'Special Needs' nominated by the Land Transport Department of Ministry of Communications, were presented with **\$100 cash-award** and **Letter of Recognition from AITI**, for their hardwork and dedication. *Names and description are as attached in Appendix 2.*

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3. The guest of honour also presented prizes to the winning photographers who submitted the Best 12 photos for the 'Celebrate ICT With A Smile' campaign. Each winner receives \$100 cash-prize from AITI. Their photos are available online at www.celebrateictwithasmile.com.bn and also being printed on the face of each month (spanning from May 2008 – May 2009) in the 13-month Smiles calendar. These calendars will be distributed by TELCOs and AITI starting Monday, 19 May 2008. *Names of winners are attached in Appendix 3.*

Following the award and prize presentations, **Awang Noralizulrainee bin Ali Yusop**, Education Officer at the Special Education Unit, MOE, and award recipient, delivered a talk on '**Assistive Technologies in Education**'. He shared with the audience the challenges he had experience throughout his academic years and how ICT had been a special aid for him. He also demonstrated to the audience the devices and software he currently uses for work.

This is followed by a talk on "Introduction to CLiaT - ,Cambridge Certification for ICT". This was delivered by Mrs Karen Halligan from CfBT Learning Centre. The talk mentioned on the opportunities for people with Special Needs to achieve internationally-recognised certification, by using ICT accessibilities.

To conclude the event, a photography session was held with the guest of honour, AITI, the supporting agencies together, and all the award recipients and smiles' winners.

With this, AITI hopes to initiate more projects and events with the community in the near future and nurturing the young. The young people of today are the leaders of the future. ICT has created endless possibilities for learning, personal and professional development. AITI hopes that the youth, the elders and the ones with 'Special Needs' take full advantage of these opportunities to benefit themselves and the nation.

AITI is also looking forward to collaborate further with ICT Training Centres, Higher Institutions, Schools, Community Centres, ICT Companies as well as the Media to help improve standards of ICT and help provide accessibility to the ones with 'Special Needs' in an effort to narrow the digital gap in Brunei Darussalam.

Released by:

Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AITI)

For more information on the WTISD 2008, please zeti.amin@aiti.gov.bn or contact 2323232 ext 1110.