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Busy Buzz at Green Spelling Bee Contest

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Published 01 Jun 2006



On Friday, 26 May, students from 35 secondary schools battled it out at the inaugural Green Spelling Bee Contest, which was held at the Singapore Polytechnic Auditorium.

The Singapore Polytechnic and the Singapore Environment Council launched this event with a mixture of fun and mentally challenging activities to create a green buzz among students.

67 teams of students (2 students per team) pitted

their skills in a series of duels comprising spelling, crossword puzzles, vocabulary and pictograms with a green theme.

"We are encouraged by the enthusiastic response from the schools to the first Green Spelling Bee Contest. In the coming years, we will look at opening it up to primary school and junior college students," said Dr Chai Min Sen, Chairman of Singapore Polytechnic's Green Committee.

Since 1997, the Singapore Polytechnic has been actively promoting environment protection through various research and community outreach activities. They include research on recycling water for flushing system, eye glass recycling projects adopting West Coast Park and Singapore River.

"As an institution of higher learning, we want to continue playing an active role in undertaking green initiatives and promoting environmental consciousness in our community," added Dr Chai.

Four winning teams walked away with prizes:

- **First** - St Hilda's Secondary School
- **Second** - Commonwealth Secondary School
- **Third** - Bedok Secondary School
- **Fourth** - Swiss Cottage Secondary School

Prasanthi Guntupalli (second prize winning team), a Secondary 3 student from Commonwealth Secondary, attributes her success to support from her principal and teachers. Mrs Annie Lim, her Green Club Teacher, has been instrumental in inculcating environmental consciousness among students. Encouraged and guided by her, Prasanthi and her partner, Jasef Angelo D Agbulos, did extensive research at the library and over the internet to



Dr Thomas Chai, Director, School of Chemical & Life Sciences with the winning team from St Hilda's A Team

prepare themselves for the Green Spelling Bee Contest.

"It is not just a achievement for us; it is a success for our school," said Prasanthi and Jasef.



The organising committee for the Green Spelling Bee Contest 2006