



MRT PROJECT ADOPTS BENCH DESIGNS BY STUDENTS

KUALA LUMPUR: 26 February 2015: The creativity of six students has paid off as the benches they designed will be adopted by the MRT Project.

The six bench designs which were created by the students will be adapted and installed in six underground stations of the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line.

The designs were submitted as part of the Bench Design Competition that was jointly organised by Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) and MMC Gamuda KVMRT (T) Sdn Bhd (MGKT), the Underground work package contractor for MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) Line.

The winners are:

No	Name	Institution	Station
1.	Mohd Saiful Anuar bin Zamri	Politeknik Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah	Muzium Negara
2.	Chong Chin Sheng	Erican College	Merdeka
3.	Chan Lee Kang	Universiti Sains Malaysia	Pasar Seni
4.	Lee Ling	Erican College	TRX
5.	Siti Nur Hajar binti Kamsani	UiTM Seri Iskandar	Cochrane
6.	Chia Sen Chung	Saito College	Maluri

Apart from having their designs adapted for use at the underground stations, the six winners also received a certificate and RM7,000 cash prize each. The 15 finalists received a certificate and RM3,500 cash prize each.

The Bench Design Competition kick-started in April 2015 with participation from students in July 2015 and concluded recently with the selection of winners from professional judging and public voting.

A total of 133 designs from 19 institutions were submitted. Of the 133 designs, 63 designs were shortlisted for the second round of judging by 14 judges. The judges comprised both industry experts and the Senior Management team from MRT Corp and MGKT.

From the 63 designs, 21 were chosen as finalists and they battled it out for the public voting which took place between 9 till 31 January 2016. A Public Display was also held from 9 till 17 January 2016 to showcase the chosen designs to the public at Nu Sentral Mall.

This is the first time in Malaysia where students have been able to directly be involved in designing an element of a major infrastructure project.

MRT Corp Project Director SBK Line, Marcus Karakashian presented the prizes to the winners during a ceremony at the KVMRT Training Centre in Sungai Buloh. Witnessing the ceremony were MGKT Director Maslan Othman and other members of the Leadership Team of MRT Corp and MGKT.

Karakashian said the objective of the competition was to encourage participation for the design of benches for platforms in the KVMRT Underground Stations by tapping into a pool of young creative talents that will provide us with designs that are aesthetic, original and innovative.

“We were looking for winning entries that combine uniqueness with good, purposeful designs for the KVMRT underground station benches and we are pleased to have found the right designs for the stations,” he said.

He said while the designs were very creative incorporating state-of-the art architecture, many of them lost marks on the functionality aspect.

“The winning designs will need to be adapted for production with engineering components added to make the benches also safe and tough for heavy use while being functional,” he added.

In this respect, Karakashian said none of the submissions for the Bukit Bintang Station could be adopted for production and as a result, there was no winner for that station and hence there are six winning entries only.

Meanwhile, Maslan said it was decided that a competition like this would provide the motivation for talents to come up with designs and it was all about doing things with a difference.

“Just imagine the pride each winner or the winning group will carry each time they visit the station where their entry sits in the form of benches, serving the public,” he said.

Among the professional judges who participated in the judging were Edward Chew, an architect with VERITAS; Nani Kahar, an architect with Lab DNA-Architecture; Abdul Haris Othman, Principal, RDA-Harris Architects & Urban Planners from RDA-Harris Design International and Marhadinata Matari, Architect from Neuformation.

The 51km SBK Line will have 31 stations, of which seven will be underground stations. The underground section of the line will be operational in July 2017 under Phase Two, which covers the stretch of tracks between Semantan Station and Kajang Station. Phase One between Sungai Buloh Station and Semantan Station will begin operations by December 2016.

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