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The Institute of Materials, Malaysia (IMM) introduced Materials Lecture Competition (MLC) in the year 2012 to give an opportunity to young students and researchers from the public and private universities in Malaysia, to deliver short lecture particularly in the area of materials science and engineering to a diversified audience. This was followed by MLC2013 in the following year and has become an annual event of IMM ever since. An MoU was signed between IMM and the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3)-Malaysia Branch to allow MLC2013 first winner to participate in the Young Person's World Lecture Competition (YPWLC2013) in Hong Kong as a Malaysia Finalist. From then on, all first winners of MLC competitions became the Malaysia Finalists in YPWLC events organised by IOM3 United Kingdom. The annual YPWLC competitions were organised in various parts of the world such as Singapore, Florida-USA, South Africa, Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia, Sao Paulo-Brazil, Hong Kong, California-USA, Ireland, Perth-Australia as well as in London-UK.

Similar to YPWLC, MLC restricts the age limit for the competitors at 28 or under on the year of the competition. The competitors are required to deliver a 15 minutes lecture on any topics related to materials science and engineering and will be judged by 4 judges whom will ask general questions related to the topics presented by the competitors. The judges are nominated among the academia and industry practitioners who have vast experience in their respective professions. The judging criteria and penalties are similar to the international YPWLC competition that include the following;

1. Abstract of the presentation material- 10 marks
2. Structure of lecture - 25 marks
3. Standard of presentation - 25 marks
4. Visual aids and physical examples - 10 marks
5. Technical content - 15 marks
6. Handling questions - 15 marks
7. Penalties for the lecture time below or exceeding the allocated 15 mins to each competitor;
 Over 17/19 minutes: 5/10 marks deducted; Under 13/12 minutes: 5/10 marks deducted

The past MLC events had been a success with at least 10 competitors from different universities participated in the competition. Each competitor has to go through an internal MLC competition at his or her own university and the first winner will represent the university in the national MLC competition. Apart from MLC2012 and the latest MLC2020, all MLC national competitions were conducted in two parts: MLC semi-final and MLC final. The main objective of the MLC semi-final competition is to select the top five winners and these winners will compete in the MLC final normally about held a month after the semi-final event. The first winner of the final event will represent Malaysia as Malaysia finalist in the international YPWLC competition. The Malaysia finalist participation in the YPWLC competition abroad is fully sponsored by IOM3, UK that include the airfare, hotel accommodation, lunches & dinners, trips to industries and interesting local sights in the country where the competition is being held. The top three winners of the YPWLC will receive cash and other prizes.

As for the national MLC competition, IMM awards the following prizes to the top five winners;

First winner: RM 3,000 cash, a plaque and a certificate

Second winner: RM 2,000 cash, a plaque and a certificate

Third winner: RM 1,000 cash, a plaque and a certificate

Consolation prize 1: RM 500 cash and a certificate

Consolation prize 2: RM 500 cash and a certificate

One of the MLC event objectives is to promote IMM among the students and academics in the public and private universities. The annual MLC competition flyers will be on display on IMM and the universities websites to encourage participation and at the same time making IMM known to the new students. The MLC event is jointly organised by IMM, IOM3-UK and the host university. MLC committee with approval from IMM will nominate the host university and with the national MLC competition conducted in the campus, more students will have the opportunity to be involved in the event either as a competitor, organising committee or as an audience. A booklet containing the competitor's brief biodata and abstract of the presentation together with the detail programme is prepared for each MLC and the booklets are distributed to judges and audience. A summary of the past MLC events is as follows:

Year	Host and Co-organiser	MLC First Winner and Malaysia Finalist in YPWLC	YPWLC organised by IOM3, UK
2012 MLC2012	IMM	Undergraduate: Mr. Mohd Danial Shafiq Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Postgraduate: Mr. M. Ghaddafy Affendy Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)	No participation from MLC2012 first winner.
2013 MLC2013	IMM	Ms. Farahani Irna Nazari Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM)	YPWLC2013 in Hong Kong
2014 MLC2014	Semi-Final: Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Final: IMM	Ms. Losini A/P Amaranan Multimedia University (MMU)	YPWLC2014 in Riverside, USA. Losini won 3 rd place.
2015 MLC2015	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	Ms. Hana Atiqah Abdul Karim Universiti Malaya (UM)	YPWLC2015 in Dublin Ireland.
2016 MLC2016	Universiti Malaya (UM)	Mr. Hoy Chun Wai (APU)	YPWLC2016 in Araxa, Brazil
2017 MLC2017	Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU)	Mr. Ng Zheng Yu Nottingham University Malaysia	YPWLC2017 in Perth, Australia. Zheng Yu won 3 rd place.
2018 MLC2018	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)	Mr. Andrew Ng Kay Lup Universiti Malaya (UM)	YPWLC2018 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Andrew won 3 rd place.
2019 MLC2019	Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM)	Mr. Lam Jia Yong Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)	YPWLC2019 in London, UK. Jia Yong won 2 nd place.
2020 MLC2020	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) (Virtual competition)	Ms. Tan Kai Xin Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UNIMAP)	YPWLC2020 will be held online on 12 th Nov 2020



Figure 1: Virtual MLC2020 Panel of Judges

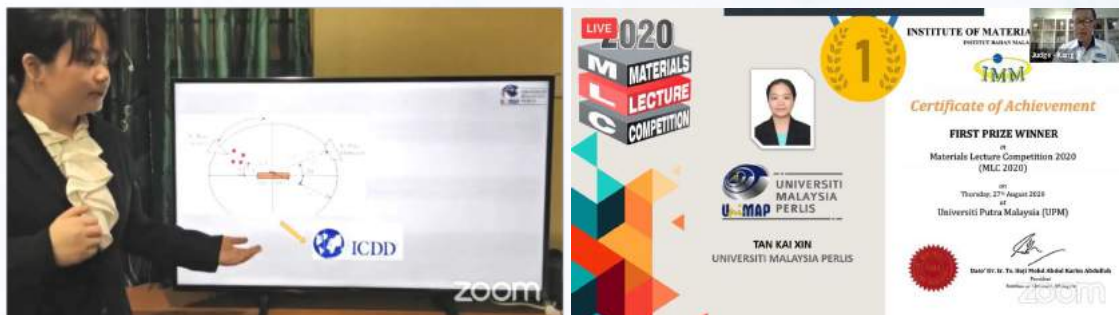


Figure 2: Tan Kai Xin from UNIMAP, First Winner of MLC2020 and Malaysia Finalist in YPWLC2020

This year’s MLC (MLC2020) was the first virtual competition held online via Zoom platform organised by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) due to worldwide corona virus pandemic (COVID-19) and the Malaysian government restriction on public gathering. The 15-mins pre-recorded video of the presentation of each MLC2020 competitor was shown online to the audience and a panel of judges on the day of the competition followed by live Q&A session between the competitor and the judges. The MLC2020 event could also be watched through live streaming via **Facebook** set up by UPM and were viewed by more than **15,000 viewers**.

The main organizing committee of MLC events from 2012-2020 is the MLC committee appointed by IMM that comprises the academic staff of various universities in Malaysia and chaired by Prof. Dr. Esah Hamzah from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. The MLC event has also achieved its other main objective in creating a collaboration and networking between IMM and the academia in the universities. It also nurtures good networking among the academicians from various universities in Malaysia and between the academia and industry practitioners. MLC has succeeded in achieving its foremost objective in generating many young talents and future leaders who are able to communicate their complex and state-of-the-art research projects to an audience with and without in-depth knowledge in materials science and engineering.



Figure 3: Some of the MLC & YPWLC events photos held in Malaysia and other countries from 2012-2019