

The Star makes a big splash

Newspaper scoops three awards for outstanding 'Water News' at media night

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STAR Media Group (SMG) was the biggest winner at the Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) media appreciation night 2019 when it took home three awards for outstanding 'Water News' stories.

In the news report category, the article titled 'Logging near water catchment' earned journalist R. Sekaran a trophy and RM1,000 (to be donated to charity).

Meanwhile, deputy chief photographer Zainudin Ahad was also in the limelight, as he bagged a trophy and RM1,000 (to be donated to charity) in the News Photographs category for his effort in the article titled 'Ulu Muda must never go under.'

SMG was also presented with a media appreciation award during the dinner.

In total, seven awards were given out to various publications and online portals on top of the appreciation awards.

PBAPP chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said news reports on water issues helped to stop logging activities in Ulu Muda, prevent water pollution at Sungai Muda and re-initiate talks on Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme.

"We encourage the mass media to continue focusing on water news for the benefit of the people.

"If we look at the news reports in the past two years, we can see that mass media reporting has helped deliver some positive results water-wise," he said in his speech at the recent event held at Eastern and Oriental Hotel in George Town.

Guest of honour Deputy Chief Minister I Datuk Ahmad Zakiyuddin Abdul Rahman, who was representing Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow, said news reports prompted the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources and the Kedah government to announce a ban on logging in Ulu Muda in September, 2018.

"Ulu Muda was a relatively unknown rainforest area in Kedah until the mass media helped Penang and PBAPP showcase its importance as the primary water catchment area for Perlis, Kedah and Penang.

"In July this year, news on illegal waste dumping in Sidam Kiri, Kedah, also averted a water pollution threat to water supply for Penang," he said.



(Above) The Star's Sekaran (second right) and Trisha (white jacket), representing SMG and photographer Zainudin, posing with other winners at the PBAPP media night. With them are Ahmad Zakiyuddin (centre) and Jaseni (dark jacket).

(Left) Pressmen and guests enjoying the scrumptious buffet dinner at the E&O Hotel.