

From Ubin to Germany

Student's love for island earns her title of environmental envoy

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WITH three generations of her family having grown up on the tiny laid-back island, it's no wonder that 23-year-old Tan Peng Ting has a soft spot for Pulau Ubin.

So much so, that every other month she takes visitors on bicycle tours around the island — that is when she's not going around gathering stories and nuggets of history from its residents for her website.

Her passion for Pulau Ubin is now taking the National University of Singapore (NUS) geography undergraduate to Germany.

She was named as one of four Bayer Young Environmental Envoys from Singapore, who will be given the chance to learn more about environmental conservation on a global scale.

The four will join more than 50 envoys from 12 countries for a week in Germany in November, where they will learn about environmental protection measures.

Ms Tan told Today: "My great--grandmother, grandmother and mother all lived on Pulau Ubin. They all moved out when my mum was about 13, but I still go there often because of Pedal Ubin and the personal connection I have with the island is very strong."

She is one of the pioneer guides of Pedal Ubin, started by the Raffles Museum of Bio-diversity Research in NUS last year.

Trained guides like Ms Tan take visitors around the island on three- to four-hour bicycle tours to discover its nature and heritage.

"As I spent more time on the island, I fell in love with Ubin more than ever. So, I decided to archive all the interesting stories about the island to generate awareness," said Ms Tan.

She created her website, <http://habitatnews.nus.edu.sg/heritage/ubin/stories/> in April.

The other envoys are Mr Yap Cheah Chang, 20, a mechatronic engineering student from Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP); Mr Tee Boon Chong, 25, a civil and environmental engineering graduate from Nanyang Technological University (NTU); and Ms Ng Wai Ling, 22, a civil and environmental engineering undergraduate from NTU.

The programme is part of the Bayer-UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) global partnership.

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