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4 youths win trip to Germany to learn more about the environment

By Hasnita A. Majid, Channel NewsAsia

SINGAPORE : Their passion for the environment not only helped to create awareness about the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling, but it also earned four Singapore youths a week's trip to Germany.

Cycling around Pulau Ubin to learn about the flora and fauna, as well as the various landmarks - that's the aim of "Pedal Ubin".

For 23-year-old Geography undergraduate Tan Peng Ting, who volunteers as a guide, it also means being back on familiar ground.

Three generations of her family used to live on the island although she has never lived there herself.

This has spurred her, as a member of the Nature Society and volunteer of the Raffles Museum of Bio-Diversity Research in NUS, to start an online archive which contains personal stories, oral history and articles of Ubin.

Tan Peng Ting, Bayer Young Environmental Envoy, said: "I want to show people and let them know more about Ubin, and that there are certain really interesting places. It is more than just adventures sites for camping and cycling.

"My sense about nature and the green places, it is generally about widening the awareness."

For 25-year-old civil and environmental engineering NTU graduate, Tee Boon Chong, it is all about cutting down waste.

Last year, he single-handedly initiated a recycling project for his hostel.

Tee Boon Chong, Bayer Young Environmental Envoy, said: "Whenever the seniors leave at the end of the semester they always throw away the used textbooks, notes, magazines which I personally believe is a waste to throw them away, and I liaised with the hostel staff to go from door to door to collect those unused text books so that they can be recycled.

"If the juniors are not keen to get them, maybe they can sell it to the karang guni and earn extra income."

Four winners will join 50 other youths from around the world in Germany from November 28 to learn more about sustainable development from a global perspective.

The other two winners are 20-year-old Yap Cheah Chang, whose creative projects include a recycling cum jackpot machine, and 22-year-old Ng Wai Ling, from Ngee Ann Polytechnic, who organised a camp in a nature reserve for tertiary institutions.



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The four winners said they hoped to bring back new knowledge about nature conservation, so that they can apply them in Singapore, to help further their cause for the environment. - CNA

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