

Young Marine Biologist Award (YMBA) 2009 - Journalists for the Environment-Extinction is Forever!

A majority of biologists are convinced that a mass extinction where as many as 90% of all living species will be wiped out, is underway. Events like global warming, habitat disturbance and destruction, overhunting and introduction of new predators and diseases are further threatening the survival of many plants and animals, including the marine species.

Mass media coverage on these issues has been creating public awareness and shaping public opinion, mobilising all to play a role and to take action at both the local and international level. The power of words and pictures has never been more powerful than in this age of ours. Given the impact media has on the public, credible, objective opinion research is more critical than ever for reporting on environmental issues

Underwater World Singapore (UWS) is launching the Young Marine Biologist Award (YMBA) 2009 Journalists for the Environment and encourages you to be an Environmental Journalist and spread environmental awareness.

Call for Entries

The contest is open to students in local and international schools in Singapore.

Primary Category: Primary school students

Secondary Category: Secondary school students

Tertiary Category: ITE, Junior Colleges, Polytechnics and University students

Project Requirements

Participants can choose a topic related to extinction and submit the journal in the form of Photo-Journalism (Project A) or Journalistic Writing (Project B). The subject chosen can be a marine animal, a global event or extinction. Students are encouraged to seek reliable sources for content and strive for factual accuracy while respecting copyright guidelines in the Singapore National Union of Journalists' Code of Professional Conduct.

- Suggested contents:
 - What is extinction
 - Causes of extinction
 - Examples of recent extinctions
 - Pictures and eye-catching captions
 - How we can make a difference.
 - You may also conduct surveys and include the results in your journal (eg. do you believe we are currently undergoing a mass extinction where most of the plants and animals will become extinct?)

Project A- Photo-journalism

Photo-journal should focus on photos to tell a story. Entries must include a title, photos, photo captions and crediting of photos to original source. Text can be added to enhance the story.

Project B- Journalistic Writing

Journalistic writing uses the style in newspaper reporting to deliver the story.

Entries must include a title, date and crediting of photos to original source. The following structure can be used:

- Headline
- Subhead, which is one or more sentence near the title of the article
- Content

Project Submission

Email your entry to uwspl@underwaterworld.com.sg by 15 October 2009. Your email must contain the following information:

- Email header: "YMBA 2009 (name of team and school)"
- Indicate category: Primary, Secondary or Tertiary
- Include names, email addresses, contact numbers, class of team members and teacher-in-charge
- Name and mailing address of school
- Designation of teacher-in-charge (eg. CCA teacher-in-charge or Science teacher)

Judging Criteria

	Photo -Journalism	Journalistic -Writing
Relevance to Project Requirements	20%	20%
Factual Accuracy	20%	20%
Presentation and Creativity	30%	20%
Fluency of Language, Content Objective and Flair	30%	40%

Prizes

Primary Category

Best Photo-Journal: \$500

Plus Individual Certificate of Award + School Trophy

Best Environmental Journal: \$500

Plus Individual Certificate of Award + School Trophy

Secondary Category

Best Photo-Journal: \$700

Plus Individual Certificate of Award + School Trophy

Best Environmental Journal: \$700

Plus Individual Certificate of Award + School Trophy

Tertiary Category

Best Photo-Journal: \$1000
Plus Individual Certificate of Award + School Trophy

Best Environmental Journal: \$1000
Plus Individual Certificate of Award + School Trophy

4 Consolation Prizes: \$200
Plus Individual Certificate of Award + School Trophy

Each member of the Best 100 journals shall receive an exclusive YMBA badge and certificate

Rules and Regulations

- Staff or relatives of UWS, advertising agency and sponsors are not eligible to participate in this contest.
- If you have any enquiries regarding the Young Marine Biologist Award, you may contact us at 6279 9218 or 6279 9279, or email at uwspl@underwaterworld.com.sg.
- Late submissions will not be eligible for selection and judging.
- Results will be announced via emails to all participants and UWS official website.
- UWS reserves the right to post the winning entries in UWS website and showcase the winning entries and winners for events, press or publicity materials.
- The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entertained.
- UWS reserves the right to alter the above conditions with or without prior notice.
- Prizes will be given out during the Prize Presentation Ceremony.
- Badges and certificates for selected teams will be sent to the school.