

Genetic Modification Advisory Committee

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To: Teachers-in-Charge of the GMAC Student Reporters' Challenge 2009,

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRELIMINARY RESULTS AND
INVITATION TO THE 5 SEP 2009 VIDEO SCREENING SESSION OF THE
GMAC STUDENT REPORTERS CHALLENGE 2009**

1 The Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC) of Singapore would like to thank you for your strong support of the GMAC Student Reporters' Challenge 2009.

Preliminary Results of the Competition

2 GMAC received a total of 26 entries for the competition. Two separate Preliminary Judging Panels – one for the Lower Secondary Category of the competition and the other for the Upper Secondary Category, and each comprising representatives from the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA); the Ministry of Education (MOE); and the Polytechnics' School of Life Sciences (or equivalent) - were formed to review all entries. The Preliminary Judging Panels shortlisted three entries per competition category for progression to a Final Judging which would be conducted on 5 Sep 2009 at a Video Screening Session.

3 The shortlisted entries, not listed in any particular order, are as follows:

- *For the Lower Secondary Category*
 - NUS High School of Mathematics and Science
 - CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School
 - Unity Secondary School
- *For the Upper Secondary Category*
 - Raffles Institution
 - Nanyang Girls' High School
 - Hwa Chong Institution

4 We commend all Student Reporters for their excellent work, regardless of whether or not their entries have been shortlisted for progression to the Final Judging. The competition is a very keen one, and each entry has strengths in its own rights.

Invitation for ALL Participants to Attend the 5 Sep 2009 Video Screening Session

5 GMAC hopes that all Student Reporters have learned a great deal of scientifically-accurate information about gene modification (GM) technology and GM foods in the course of their project. From the video clips submitted, the Student Reporters certainly looked like they had fun in the process of creating their entries. We

are glad that they have enjoyed the 1st Half of the Learning Journey of the GMAC Student Reporters' Challenge 2009.

6 The 2nd Half of the Learning Journey will take place in Biopolis on 5 Sep 2009 at the Video Screening Session. The Programme of the Session is attached as Annex A. Scientists, university lecturers, and representatives from regulatory agencies and the Press will be present at the Session.

7 Attendance at the Video Screening Session is compulsory for all Student Reporters whose entries have been shortlisted (unless accompanied by very strong reasons or if presence is excused by a Medical Certificate. GMAC needs to be informed as early as possible on the student's absence). Please refer to Annex B for details on the Final Judging. All other Student Reporters who participated in the competition, even through their entries might not have been shortlisted, are strongly encouraged to attend the Video Screening Session. Regardless of whether or not their entries have been shortlisted, the Video Screening Session provides a unique learning opportunity for ALL.

Programme of the Video Screening Session – A Unique Learning Opportunity

8 A series of activities have been planned for the Video Screening Session. Besides being able to view the shortlisted entries at the Session, all present at the event will also be able to vote for their favourite shortlisted entries. Furthermore, the event will feature a Question and Answer component, where members of the audience would have opportunities to pose GM-related questions to an expert panel. From our past experiences, students always find great interest in and participate very actively in our Question and Answer sessions. Visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/24790492@N04/sets/72157604147908795/> to view photos from last year's GMAC Student Reporters' Challenge.

9 The 5 Sep 2009 Video Screening Session will complete participants' Learning Journey through the GMAC Student Reporters' Challenge 2009. Towards the end of the session, each of the Student Reporters present will be invited on stage to receive a Certificate of Participation.

10 We hope that all Student Reporters will attend the Video Screening Session.

Issued by GMAC Secretariat

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