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MEDIA RELEASE

IBN Challenges Students to Be Creative about Science
Research institute organizes a series of online contests in 2008 to celebrate the 5th anniversary of its Youth Research Program

February 15, 2008 – IBN’s Youth Research Program (YRP), which is celebrating its 5th anniversary this year, continues to spearhead the drive to instill a passion for science among the young through a series of online competitions.

The YRP 5th Anniversary Challenge is open to all students who are enrolled in Singapore schools. Youths will be able to flex their creativity outside of the classroom through five competitions that will be held throughout 2008.

According to IBN Director and Chair of the Youth Research Program, Noreena AbuBakar, “The YRP 5th Anniversary Challenge will encourage the young to explore new ways of thinking about science and expressing their scientific ideas. We hope that by exposing them to the prevalence of science in our daily lives, they will be inspired to think about the vast possibilities of scientific research and its relevance to our lives.”

Launched today, the first of the YRP 5th Anniversary Challenge series of contests invites students to design a new Youth Research Program logo. Students are invited to channel their creative talents towards producing a logo that best represents youth involvement or their passion for scientific research. The organizers hope that this challenge will empower the young to take ownership of the Youth Research Program and think about their vision of scientific research. The contest is open to all students enrolled in Singapore schools, and entries will be judged on their originality, creativity and concept behind the design. The winner of the competition will receive a Sony Playstation Portable sponsored by ITS Science and Medical Pte Ltd. The submission deadline is March 28, 2008. More information on how to enter the YRP 5th Anniversary Challenge is available at yrp.ibn.a-star.edu.sg/yrplogo/.

Broadening Horizons: Students engaged in discussion with Nobel Laureate Ryoji Noyori at the 1st Molecular Frontiers Forum organized by YRP last month.
The other contests in the YRP 5th Anniversary Challenge series will take the form of a themed photography competition, an essay competition on science and discovery, a science quiz and a multimedia competition. An iPod Nano sponsored by Weta Engineering Pte Ltd will be presented to the winner of the next contest. Students will be encouraged to respond to these challenges by doing their own research and to develop their personal ideas about science by exploring various concepts, thus broadening their understanding of science.

This online contest series complements the YRP’s web communications initiative to reach out to technology savvy youngsters. Recently, the YRP launched its online group Club YRP on Facebook, the popular networking website. Club YRP is open to all and is a meeting place for everyone who is interested in IBN’s Youth Research Program. News and information about YRP activities, including details about the YRP 5th Anniversary Challenge and other exciting events, are posted regularly on this dynamic group.

IBN’s Youth Research Program
http://yrp.ibn.a-star.edu.sg

IBN runs a very active Youth Research Program (YRP) to introduce its cutting-edge scientific research to students and teachers, in an effort to inspire more young Singaporeans to pursue careers in the biomedical sciences industry. The YRP features activities such as career talks, open houses, workshops and research attachments for students and teachers from secondary to tertiary levels. Since its launch in October 2003, over 21,300 students and teachers from 178 schools have participated in the YRP. More than 800 students and teachers have also been attached to IBN for a minimum period of four weeks, during which they received hands-on experience in scientific research under guidance from an IBN researcher. More information on IBN’s Youth Research Program is available at yrp.ibn.a-star.edu.sg and at Club YRP on Facebook. Photos related to the YRP may be requested from Laura Lau at sslau@ibn.a-star.edu.sg.

About the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN)
http://www.ibn.a-star.edu.sg

The Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN) is a member of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Established in March 2003, the Institute’s mission is to establish a broad knowledge base and conduct innovative research at the interface of bioengineering and nanotechnology. Positioned at the frontiers of engineering, IBN is focused on creating knowledge and cultivating talent to develop technology platforms that will spur the growth of new industries. IBN also fosters an exciting, multidisciplinary research environment for the training of students and young researchers to spearhead biomedical advancement in Singapore. Since its establishment, IBN’s multidisciplinary team of researchers has published 415 papers in scientific journals and proceedings, and filed 468 patent applications. The Institute celebrates its 5th Anniversary in 2008. View IBN’s 5th Anniversary Milestones Video on www.ibn.a-star.edu.sg

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