

Headline	Joy for journos		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	07 Apr 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	Metro	Circulation	304,904
Page No	31	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	365 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	Tho Xin Yi	AdValue	RM 16,933
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 50,799



# Joy for journos

## StarMetro trio make the news

By **THO XIN YI**

thoxinyi@thestar.com.my

Photo by **DARRAN TAN**

**T**HE three of them have one thing in common: they are very passionate about their work.

*StarMetro* Journalists Elan Perumal, Bavani M. and Yip Yoke Teng made *The Star* proud last week when they grabbed three top prizes at the Malaysian Press Institute Awards ceremony.

Their winning entries ranged from national issues of export of raw limestone and heritage preservation to local issues like the sorry state of food courts and People's Housing Scheme (PPR) units.

"Hunting and developing scoops and exclusive stories is something I enjoy a lot, but at the end of the day, knowing that you are helping people by highlighting community issues makes it even more fulfilling," said Bavani, who won the "Best Public Service Reporting" award for her story "Empty stalls" and "Slum in disguise" on the deplorable state of government-run food courts and the poor condition at some PPR units.

The "Best News Reporting" was Elan's second MPI award, after the "Best Investigative Journalism" award he jointly received with fellow *StarMetro* journalist Stuart Michael last year.

"Limestone hills at Simpang Renggam in Perak has long been a landmark in Ipoh as they can be seen from the North-South Expressway.

"The quarrying activity is also a common sight. Yet, people are unaware that the limestone hills are shrinking over time as the precious natural resource can be easily shipped out by unscrupulous businessmen in the name of money," said the seasoned journalist.

In his story "Raw deals", Elan uncovered the unregulated export of limestones that cost the country billions of Ringgit.

Meanwhile, Yip won the "Best Environment Reporting – Petronas" category for her article which highlighted the immense heritage value of old shophouses in Jalan Sultan, Kuala Lumpur.

"My article highlighted the built heritage in Jalan Sultan but there are

also those in other parts of the country needing our urgent attention. These beautiful buildings reflecting our unique cultures are our treasure, but most of them are in bad shape due to negligence.

"As Malaysians, we should try our best to preserve them," said Yip, who has been a journalist for the past 12 years.

The *Star* photographers Azhar Mahfof and Kamarul Ariffin bagged the "Outstanding News Photographic Journalism" award.

Two other *StarMetro* journalists, Priya Menon and Jade Chan, were nominees under the "Best Environment Reporting – Petronas" category for their feature "Save power, pay less on energy saving".

The *Star* journalist Lim Wey Wen was nominated under the "Best Public Service Reporting" category for her stories "The changing faces of AIDS, Ketamine danger" and "Human rights in HIV" while "Phishing Sharks" by Steven Daniel, Austin Camoens, P. Aruna, Daljit Singh, Jo Timbuong and Iwan Shu-Aswad Shuaib was listed as a nominee under the "Best Investigative Journalism" award.



**Congratulations:** Elan (middle) flanked by (from left) Chan, Priya, Bavani and Yip at the MPI Awards Night.