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# R.AGE team takes second award for AIDS awareness

**PUTRAJAYA:** A special pullout to raise awareness on young people's exposure to HIV/AIDS won *The Star's* R.AGE team their second Red Ribbon Media Award from the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF).

The *Star's* R.AGE team comprising Ivy Soon, Melody L. Goh, Niki Cheong, Sharmila Nair, Nasa Maria Entaban, Ian Yee and Qishin Tariq won the award for Outstanding Achievement in Print Media.

R.AGE had previously won in 2008.

The Red Ribbon Media Awards 2012 were presented to coincide with the Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC)'s 20th anniversary celebrations and recognises journalists for their contributions in championing awareness about the HIV/AIDS cause.

"Our media partners have helped change public opinion about HIV from the morbid messages of despair to one of hope," said MAC president Tan Sri Mohd Zaman Khan, during the ceremony at the Putrajaya

International Convention Centre here, yesterday.

Malaysian AIDS Foundation chairman Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman said although treatment may have come a long way, stigma towards those living with HIV/AIDS persisted.

"The media plays an important role in shaping the public's mind, to make a more accepting society," she said.

The R.AGE team received the award for their "Don't Blow Your Future" pullout in December 2010 in conjunction with World AIDS Day.

*Kosmo!*'s Suhana Veru and *Utusan Malaysia's* Rosmah Mohd Dain were the other recipients from the mainstream print media.

Practitioners from non-traditional media and broadcast media, as well as Red Ribbon celebrity supporters including Fahrin Ahmad and Dayang Nurfaizah were also honoured.

Winners of each category received a specially designed trophy, RM5,000 in cash and a M.A.C Cosmetics prize package.

**All for one:** The R.AGE team (from right), Goh, Nair, Entaban, Soon, and Tariq with the Outstanding Achievement in Print Media prize during the Red Ribbon Media Award ceremony in Kuala Lumpur yesterday

