



Bevy of beauties: The 15 finalists of the Miss Penang Times Square pageant posing for a group

Student keeps up winning streak

20-year-old finally bags the top prize in beauty pageant

By JEREMY TAN
north@thestar.com.my

SHARMEEN Looi Mee Leng had finished among the top places in each of her previous beauty pageant forays. On Feb 7, she kept up the winning streak by grabbing the inaugural Miss Penang Times Square Pageant crown.

Defeating 14 others in a keenly contested final at the mall's first floor concourse area, she exuded confidence and versatility on stage, factors she felt was key in tipping the judges' decision in her favour.

"This pageant had no question-and-answer session, which is my strong point. It was totally dependant on how one showcased the outfits and this was quite challenging," the 20-year-old mass communications student said.

The win was also just reward for her perseverance, having finished runners up on three previous pageants. She kept going and has now bagged two titles in little over a month, having also won a title on the final day of 2009.

"I'm overjoyed and I believe my previous experience helped today. Most importantly, one should never give up," said Looi who took home cash vouchers and prizes worth RM5,000.

Finishing second was 17-year-old Laureen Quah Ming Hui who had only finished high school last year. Harboursing ambitions to be a professional dancer, she revealed her passion for pole dancing, a sport she believes is a good avenue for self-expression. Hearing that, the crowd erupted in a resounding roar of approval.

On the pageant, she said: "Basically confidence is everything and I gained some useful experience. Besides, I also made lots of friends here."

Quah also bagged the Miss Fitness subsidiary title and took home cash vouchers and prizes totalling RM3,500.

Grabbing the last podium place was 25-year-old internal accounts manager Jesslyn Soon Lay Cheng.

"To finish third in my first attempt at beauty pageants, I'm very satisfied. The whole experience taught me a lot about the catwalk and how to carry myself," said

Soon, who took home cash vouchers and prizes worth RM2,000.

The other subsidiary title winners were Rowena Ann, 27 (Miss Photogenic), Jesslynn Oon, 19 (Miss Crowning Glory) and Celest Kang, 26 (Miss Beautiful Skin).

The pageant final was the culmination of three weeks of intense heats and auditions. The finalists were required to parade in sports wear, casual wear and cocktail wear.



Exuding confidence: Finalist Terresa Tan strutting her stuff on the catwalk.



Miss Beautiful Skin: Kang posing in casual wear.