



SIGNAL HILL TAKES TOP HONOURS IN EMA'S DRAMATIC ENVIROLOGUE CONTEST

Signal Hill Secondary School has emerged victorious in the finals of the Environmental Management Authority's Secondary Schools' Dramatic Envirologue Competition 2009 hosted at the Rudranath Capildeo Learning Resource Centre on Wednesday March 11.

The award winning dramatic presentation by Kisanne Brathwaite was entitled: "The Dilemma" which focused on the issue of Preservation vs. Conservation in the context of sustainable development. Everyone agreed that her comprehensive monologue was well researched as she rendered an excellent and critical analysis of the topic, making reference to regional and international aspects of the dilemma of sustainable development. Brathwaite, a Form Five student, is a member of her school's Environmental Club called the E.P.A – Environmental Protection Agents, where she plays an active role in maintaining a clean environment within her school and community.

It is safe to say that all present at this competition felt proud and hopeful that T&T's environment is in the hands of these future environmental leaders.

Delivering the feature address at the event was EMA's Managing Director/CEO Dr. Joth Singh, who urged students present to make sustainable development a lifestyle issue. "These powerful presentations are a good indicator as to how successful the EMA is in its education mandate."

He said that while the Envirologue competition focused on what can be said about the issue, it was important to “convert talk into action.” He also reminded the audience that the competition “introduces an opportunity to convey important environmental messages”, and urged them to make every effort to translate it into action. “We cannot just be romantic about the environment...we must actively change our lifestyle.” According to Dr Singh, the environment must be further integrated into the country’s development agenda, though he sounded the caution that it was difficult to compete against the economic interests. “We need to convince decision makers and leaders to invest in sustainable development. We cannot take the environment for granted anymore.”

Representing the Ministry of Education was Allan Noreiga, Schools Supervisor 111 for the Caroni District. He lauded the successful efforts of the EMA to continuously promote environmental awareness in the nation’s schools. “It’s not only about writing a script, but about playing a role...it’s not about winning a prize, but about the transfer of knowledge so that it relates to our daily activities.”

He described the young contestants as “the next generation of leadership” and said “education is expected to play a pivotal role in the transformation process.”

He reiterated that the youth are needed to now address “the reckless behaviour of the population” and to play their role in changing attitudes toward the environment.

In second place was Francesca Khan of St. Stephen’s College who delivered a monologue on “How we can take the litter out of lime”.

Khan, a Form Six student hopes that in the future, Trinidad and Tobago will become true tourist islands without garbage and unwanted refuse being a national eyesore.

Additionally, she hopes individuals will realize how harmful their actions are and will eventually work in unison to clean-up our environment.

Her engaging presentation which included excellent solutions such as enforcement, pride, personal responsibility, education, and her creative incorporation of the dustbin as part of her costume ensured her second place in the competition.

Coming in third was Tequala Craig of Carapichaima East Secondary School with a spirited rendition of: “How we can take the litter out of lime” – “Don’t Mess with

Me.” Her superb characterization as a ‘vagrant angel’ trying to teach humans lessons on littering certainly impressed the audience as well as the judges.

Craig is currently the president of her school’s Environmental Club and is also a past participant of the Secondary Schools’ Dramatic Envirologue Competition and the EMA camp 2008.

Eleven schools made it to the Finals of the competition which was staged nationwide.



‘The nature that God created, man shall not destroy.’ Philosophy of first place winner Kisanne Brathwaite of Signal Hill Secondary School, Tobago



Second place winner Francesca Khan of St. Stephen's College believes that, 'How you keep your surroundings is a reflection of your personality and character.'



Tequala Craig of Carapichaima East Secondary School is of the view that, 'Every contribution, good or bad, can affect the environment'



Molly Gaskin, president of the Pointe-a-Pierre Wild Fowl Trust and former EMA Board member, presents the Pawi Award, the first place trophy to Kisanne Brathwaite (center) of Signal Hill Secondary School, Tobago.