

The nomination from the Science Research Project Competition of the National Science Foundation won the Prestigious Grand Award at the ISEF 2017

The nomination of the Science Research Projects Competition (SRPC) organized by NSF since 2008, was able to receive the Grand Awards Winning Science Project at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) held in Los Angeles, USA from 14 – 19 May 2017.

A Grand Award (fourth place) under the theme of Earth and

Environmental Sciences was awarded at the Grand Awards Ceremony of the Intel ISEF held on 19 May 2017 in Los Angeles to Shehan Kavishka and Sankalpa Perera, two students of S. De S. Jayasinghe Central Collage, Dehiwala, who represented the Science Research Projects Competition (SRPC) 2016 organized by NSF. The winning project was on “Micro and nano engineering for wastewater: magnetized biochar and nanoparticle composite for toxic Cr (VI) removal”. This is the very first time in the history of SRPC conducted

from 2008 onwards, that a Grand Award had been won at the ISEF.

They were also able to win a Special Award of US\$ 1000/- (Mawhiba’s Special Award) for the same project at the Special Awards Ceremony held on 18 May 2017 at ISEF.

Shehan Kavishka and Sankalpa Perera competed at the SRPC 2016 held from 17-19 January 2017 in Colombo, and their Science Project (Micro and nano engineering for wastewater: magnetized biochar and nanoparticle composite for toxic Cr (VI) removal) was selected as one of the Top Ten Winners of the above Competition. After receiving the a Top Ten Winner Award their project became eligible



Shehan Kavishka and Sankalpa Perera on their arrival at the Bandaranayke Memorial International Airport



Winning Medals at the ISEF 2017



Receiving awards from Hon. Susil Premajayantha 1. Sankalpa 2. Shehan 3. Ms Gayani Samarasinghe 4. Dr Meththika Vithanage, Respectively

for participation at the Sri Lanka Science and Engineering Fair 2017 held in Colombo on 09 February 2017. Their project won the second place at the above competition and therefore, was eligible to participate at the ISEF 2017 in Los Angeles.

During the recent past, the SRPC had become prestigious with the introduction of several progressive steps by NSF with the objective of creating international level winners. Introducing Principal Supervisors / Supervisors for science projects was a significant step. Dr Meththika Vithanage was appointed as the Principal Supervisor of this project by NSF, and she did an excellent job by supervising the two students to enter the winning path.

Apart from this progressive

steps were taken by NSF, firstly in organizing of two progress review workshops prior to the final evaluation and selection by a high caliber Resource Panel to guide the students to apply scientific method accurately in their research work, and also secondly by increasing of financial support by NSF for conducting science research projects.

NSF is committed to produce more Grand Award Winners of ISEF in the future, and to encourage Sri Lankan school children to be involved in science research, and thereby contributing to the inculcation of a science research culture among the school children of the country.

NSF wishes to extend its warm

greetings and congratulations to Shehan Kavishka and Sankalpa Perera for the effort in winning a Grand Award and a Special Award at the Intel ISEF, which is the world's largest international pre-college science competition, organized in USA featuring nearly 1,800 young scientists selected from 425 affiliate fairs in 78 countries, regions and territories.

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