



Sun powers cars in solar race

The Hyperion Technical School, Avgorou won this year's Solar Challenge organised for the third consecutive year by the Cyprus Institute in cooperation with the municipalities of Paphos and Yeroskipou and the University of Neapolis.

"The Solar Challenge aims to promote environmentally friendly renewable photovoltaic energy, electric vehicle technology and foster educational and engineering excellence. We aim in particular to educate the younger generation," Cyprus Institute spokeswoman, Maria Mitas told The Cyprus Weekly.

Photovoltaics is a method of generating electrical power by converting solar radiation into direct current electricity. The electricity is then stored in a set of batteries which powers the car. Solar vehicles run noiselessly without producing pollution.

In Sunday's event, six Cypriot teams took part along with teams from Pakistan's Ned University of Engineering and Technology and Jordan's University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The car of the St. Lazarus Technical School came second and third place was taken by the Pascal English School of Larnaca.

The award for the best solar car design was given to JUST. The elegant, streamlined vehicle which incorporated solar panels seamlessly into its bodywork was designed specifically with the Paphos track in mind.



A DAY AT THE RACES: Eight cars took part in the 2012 Solar Challenge

Saturday was spent examining the entered vehicles outside Neapolis University for road worthiness and compliance with regulations.

On Sunday, the race ran for three hours around a track in Yeroskipou.

Following the event, the cars paraded along Poseidonos Avenue to the Castle Square at Paphos

harbour where awards were presented.

"Solar cars represent the green future when cars will use renewable energy rather than conventional fuels," President of the Cyprus Institute, Professor Costas Papanikolas said.

On behalf of Neapolis University, Professor Spyros Vliamos emphasised the importance of

raising awareness amongst young people regarding the use of renewable energy and encouraging them to engage in technological and scientific studies.

The President of the Council of Neapolis University, Michael Leptos, highlighted the significant economic benefits to energy saving technologies.



BEST DESIGN: Winner of the 'Best Design' went to the Jordanian entry