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Ideas aplenty in port hackathon

21 July 14 The Business Times by CAI HAOXIANG

THE Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) yesterday announced the winners of its Smart Port Hackathon 2014, an inaugural contest that drew 25 teams with a total of 120 people.

The first prize went to team TBG, for developing a user-friendly and practical system that detects abnormal ship movements that might indicate potential security and safety breaches. Its team members each walked away with S\$5,000 in cash and a seven-inch Samsung Galaxy Tab 3.

MPA chief executive officer Andrew Tan said that he hoped the industry could use data analytics and mobile solutions to improve productivity and efficiency.

"Through such hackathons, we hope to encourage greater collaboration and data sharing between our port operators, logistics players and industry solution providers to develop innovative ideas and solutions that can benefit the maritime sector," he said.

The hackathon saw a total of 20 different datasets with 32 million data points released by MPA and its supporting partners, which included port operator PSA Corporation, Jurong Port, supply chain manager YCH Group, consultancy DHI, telecommunications firm Orbcomm, and the National Environment Agency.

Datasets covered vessel movement and position data, ship registries, cargo information, berthing schedules, container trucking data, bunkering transactions, hydrographic maps, air quality, and tidal and weather information.

The event was jointly organised with the Urban Prototyping (UP) Singapore community. UP Singapore brings people together from the tech, business, marketing and government sectors, to come up with ways to tackle social and environmental problems in cities.

Other prizes awarded went to teams which, for example, created a dashboard to simplify information sharing; made a visualisation tool for vessel traffic; and developed a mobile application to help shippers look at their ship schedules and bunkering requirements.

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