They were the winners in a computer programming competition

3 young Singaporeans have won an all expense paid trip to visit Googleplex, the headquarters of IT giant Google, located in California in the US.

They beat out more than 60 other teams to become champions in the first ever 24 hour Computer Programming Competition.

The winning team consisted of SMU 3rd year students Muhammad Mohsin and Jonathan Zhan together with entrepreneur Jacqueline Choo.

The teams were given 24 hours to create a web based application based on the theme 'Hospitality or Tourism Services in a Participative Society'.

Muhammed's team designed a community driven website that allowed members to recommend attractions, upload photos and share information about tourist destinations in Singapore.

He says he always shared a passion for computers but never dreamed he would be involved in programming.

Programming is something which if you begin to learn, perhaps it's not true of everyone, but if you like solving puzzles, programming at its highest level is about solving a challenge, and people who are able to do puzzles and this kind of thing, I think they would really enjoy trying to solve bigger problems, and programming is ultimately something where you construct something and at the end of the day when you build something that's a very satisfying feel.

Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports Vivian Balakrishnan presented the awards to the winners.

He hopes such competitions will dispel the stereotype that computer programming is boring and 'grunt' work.

Programming and coding, especially for our young people, is a way to broaden their minds, give them new paradigms to think and more importantly these are tools for them to exercise their creativity, and this competition and the products that have resulted from this competition is proof of this.

The competition was organised by the Information Technology Standards Committee to generate interest in computer programming among students and provide them with networking opportunities.