

PEKAN REVIEW

Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community



**TENGGU MAHKOTA
OF PAHANG
LAUNCHED KUALA PAHANG
MAHKOTA EMPOWER ECER**

**TUN MAHATHIR
CONFERRED HONORARY
DOCTORATE IN AUTOMOTIVE
ENGINEERING**

**UMP, PAHANG SEDC FORGED TIES
TO SPUR PAHANG'S WEAVING INDUSTRY**



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Undergraduates need to be prepared to face globalisation



Tengku Mahkota of Pahang launched Kuala Pahang Mahkota Empower ECER



Cendekia Bitara Award recognizes & rewards excellent lecturers, researcher



UMP, Pahang SEDC forged ties to spur Pahang's weaving industry



Mentor Minister launched UMP Cooperative

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Greetings to all Pekan Review readers! And thank you for your loyal support as we present you the latest issue.

This edition congratulates Malaysia's former and fourth Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was recently conferred the honorable degree in Automotive Engineering by the Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Pahang.

The conferment is timely as a reflection of the contributions made by Tun Dr Mahathir, who was pivotal in the architecture of the country's industrial growth and development, especially in the automotive sector. And UMP believes it is only befitting to honour Tun Dr Mahathir as the Father of Malaysia's Automotive Industry.

Pekan Review also wishes to record our deepest appreciation to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Pahang, Tengku Abdullah Al-Haj Ibni Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah, who was gracious to officiate the recent launch of "Empower ECER Kuala Pahang".

His Royal Highness' presence at the event in UMP Pekan Campus was a clear manifestation of his royal concern to see the citizens of Pahang, especially the younger generations, educate themselves with adequate knowledge and a variety of skills.

This edition of Pekan Review, furthermore, acknowledges the many activities carried out and successes achieved by UMP, at both the staff and students' levels – which consistently proves that UMP is on the right track to become a "World Class Technological University".

Moving forward to 2013, we call upon the undivided support and cooperation from all parties involved to continue to contribute to our beloved university's vision and mission, to ensure the success of UMP's founding objectives.

Happy Reading

Abd Rahman Safie

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S VOICE

UMP ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Assalamualaikum and Salam 1UMP.

With a firm identity as a university focused on engineering and technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has successfully discovered its own mold and the recipe to produce graduates who are capable of taking on the challenges of ever-evolving technology, not only for this decade, but also for a long time to come. Ten years since its establishment, UMP has furthermore exhibited capabilities as a full-fledge university, truly focused on its very foundation and in fact, doing Malaysia proud.

For that, I wish to record my heartfelt gratitude to be here, together celebrating a decade of UMP's establishment. The recent 10th anniversary celebration clearly displayed that UMP was no longer considered a new university in search of its identity, but has accomplished far more than that. UMP has, as a matter of fact, registered strings of achievements in both academics and the field of research. What we have here at UMP is now at par with renowned universities globally, and credit is due to the staff and students who made history and did the university proud.

It is now plain for all to see that UMP has found its identity and rhythm. With a vision to make UMP a "World Class Technological University", we will march forward and no longer look back. We have to be courageous to take on the risks and aggressive to steer into the future. And with technological developments as our backbone, we need to be focused to achieve all that we have set our sights on.

UMP's expansive research and development, teaching-factory learning method, strong university-industry bond, and highly intellectual and innovative workforce are among the university's success drivers we can be proud of today.

And, with the strings of achievements the university has accomplished, I truly believe that UMP is already on the right track to success – with the right recipe of being focused and innovative. Keep it up!

Spread our spirit UMPians!

Professor Dato' Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim.



TENGGU MAHKOTA OF PAHANG LAUNCHED KUALA PAHANG MAHKOTA EMPOWER ECER



His Royal Highness Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Al-Hajj Ibn Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah officially launched Kuala Pahang Mahkota Empower ECER - a human resource development programme tailored especially for the community in Kuala Pahang, Pekan.

The idea was mooted by Tengku Abdullah himself who wanted to see youths in the area attained success in their studies as well as improving their skills.

He said they should use the opportunity wisely so they could change their lives for the better and become better persons for their families, the nation and religion.

"In fact, the programme should be extended to other districts in Pahang so others can benefit too," he said before officially launching the programme at the Student Centre Square in Pekan UMP on July 18, 2012.

Tengku Abdullah also witnessed the exchanging of documents between UMP, represented by



Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, and East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC), represented by its Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Jebasingam Issace John.

The cooperation involved the implementation of four human resource development programmes - Mahkota Empower ECER in Kuala Pahang, Sinar ECER for Pekan Agropolitan children, motivational training for Agropolitan participants in Runchang, Lepar and Tanjung Batu and trainings in motorised vehicle

repair works and maintenance for youths in Pekan Agropolitan.

Dato' Dr. Daing said the Mahkota Empower ECER programme in Kuala Pahang was carried out because UMP understood the need for the university to make its mark in the local socio-economic development plan in order to realise its Strategic Plan (2011-2015).

He added that the initiative would be implemented under Centre for Continuing Education and Professional Development (CENFED) and Automotive



The idea was mooted by Tengku Abdullah himself who wanted to see youths in the area attained success in their studies as well as improving their skills

Excellence Centre (AEC). "In fact, commitment from CENFED and UMP Women Association (MATAHARI) have successfully realised the strategic consensus between UMP and ECERDC," he said.

Seven people were also presented with letters of appointment and they would be involved with the programme in Kuala Pahang.

They were Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Indera Shahbandar Principal, Hajah Umi Kalsom Abd Azi, Senior Assistant Teacher (Administration), Rahayu Shaharuddin, Sekolah Kebangsaan Lepar teacher, Abd Razak Jaafar, Sekolah Kebangsaan Runchang Headmaster, Ismail Md Yassin, Sekolah Kebangsaan Indera Shahbandar headmistress Zaiton Awang, Sekolah Kebangsaan Serandu Headmaster, Mohd Sufian Mohd Ali and Social ECER-UMP Project Manager,

Zainal Bahari.

Two participants, Zaini Jusoh and Amran Zakaria, received offer letters to take part in 1Malaysia cooking course and mobile telephone repair course, respectively.

They were among 50 participants comprising homemakers, single mothers and youths selected to participate in various free skill training courses for six months.

In the same event, Tengku Abdullah took the opportunity to mingle with students from schools in Kuala Pahang during a story book reading session and visited exhibition displaying activities relating to ECER, automotive and several government agencies.

Also present were UMP Board Of Directors' Chairman, Dato' Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib, Pekan District Officer, Dato' Mohd Fadli Mohd Kenali and the university's senior officials.





TUN MAHATHIR CONFERRED HONORARY DOCTORATE IN AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), for the first time, conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Automotive Engineering to former Prime Minister Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad in recognition to his continuous contribution to developing the nation's automotive industry.

Tun Dr. Mahathir is the country's fourth Prime Minister.

UMP Chancellor, His Royal Highness Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Al-Haj Ibn Sultan

Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah presented the award in a special convocation ceremony held at the Sports Complex Hall, UMP Gambang on May 17, 2012.

Also present were Tun Dr. Mahathir's wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Haji Mohamad Ali, Higher Education Deputy Minister, Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah and UMP Board of Director's Chairman, Dato' Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib.

In his speech, Tengku Abdullah said Tun Dr. Mahathir had successfully



built up the national automotive industry and turned Malaysia into a highly competitive country in the international scene today.

"After 29 years, Malaysia is proud for being able to make useful of its local experts to move ahead

in building the national automotive industry, from the design stage to engine development.

"In fact, the conferment of this honorary doctorate will inspire more success and excellence among Malaysians," he said.

Tengku Abdullah also proposed for UMP to carry on with its strategic focus to ensure that its progress would always be on the right track by means of research activities, consultation, knowledge dissemination and human resource development that would give added values to society's advancement.

Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, in his speech, said UMP played an active role in developing automotive engineering as among its niche areas.

"The cooperation forged between UMP and strategic partners from Germany through Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences (HsKA) in its automotive engineering twinning programme can significantly build up a national automotive industry with the



involvement of more local and high caliber workers," he added.

Tun Dr. Mahathir also said he had full confidence that an imagination for success followed by serious efforts was very instrumental in realising a dream.

He said this had been proven with the development of the national automotive industry that was established in 1983, starting with Proton Saga.

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), for the first time, conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Automotive Engineering to former Prime Minister Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad in recognition to his continuous contribution to developing the nation's automotive industry.



Today, the Malaysian automotive brand had a line-up of various models and designs – a result of the Malaysian boldness in taking the risk and trying something new then, he added.

In addition, Tun Dr Mahathir said the automotive industry that had been developed was centred on patriotism as well with locals trusting and appreciating a national brand.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said, the conferment to Tun Dr. Mahathir in the special convocation ceremony was even more meaningful as the university also celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

He also said outsiders' confidence in the progress of Malaysia's automotive industry that was moving on the right track today facilitated the cooperation forged with the prominent university in Germany that brought about the collaboration of the twinning programme in automotive.

As a form of recognition to the commitment, leadership, contribution and determination showed by Tun Dr Mahathir in spearheading the development of the automotive and engineering industry, the conferment simply fit him, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said.

He also said it was only right for UMP to declare Tun Dr. Mahathir as Malaysia's Father of Automotive.

Later, Tengku Abdullah and Tun Dr Mahathir, accompanied by other guests, visited an automotive fair as well as an exhibition on the life of the former prime minister.

120 SINAR ECER PARTICIPANTS CONGREGATED IN UMP GAMBANG CAMPUS



A total of 120 children whose families were involved in the Pekan Agropolitan project took part in a two-day Sinar ECER Innovation and Creativity Day organised by Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) on January 14 and 15, 2012.

The two-day exposure gave them the sense of being 'undergraduates' and experienced a campus life aimed at helping to motivate them to take up science and technology subjects.

They visited the laboratories, learn to use the computers and be creative.

The participants, comprising pupils of six and 12 years old, were taught about computers, alphabets and innovations

The programme was an extension of the tuition classes, motivational camp and group training conducted under the Sinar ECER project that was aimed at creating awareness on the importance of education among the children so they would not be left behind in their studies.



with the guidance of trainer Zulfadzli Haron from Zulldesign Autotronic.

The programme was an extension of the tuition classes, motivational camp and group training conducted under the Sinar ECER project that was aimed at creating awareness on the importance of education among the children so they would not be left behind in their studies.

The Sinar ECER project was among the efforts taken under the East Cost Economic Region (ECER) masterplan.

ECER Development Council chief executive officer Dato' Jebasingam Issace John said the programme had three modules - academic class, interactive activities and children camp.

He added that these were a holistic approach

conducted to support the families in the agropolitan scheme.

"The programme takes on a comprehensive approach that involves self-development, academic achievement and competitive team participation," he said.

He also said under the ECER masterplan, the agropolitan scheme targeted an increase in a household income of

between RM1,000 and RM2,000 monthly in the first three years and RM5,000 a month in the long run.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said there was high commitment by the ECERDC management on the Sinar ECER programme to improve the children's competitiveness that involved two schools - Sekolah Kebangsaan Lepar and Sekolah Kebangsaan Runchang in Pekan.

They received guidance from staff and undergraduates of UMP as well as support from the Pahang state government.

He added that the Sinar ECER was a manifestation on the awareness that responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of the people was not the sole duty of the Government



for the university had its role to assist in the effort as well.

"UMP is proud to be a partner with ECERDC in the Sinar ECER programme that was conducted throughout 2011. It involved the Center for Continuing Education & Professional Development (CENFED), UMP Women Association (Matahari) and undergraduates from the In-Smartive Club," he said.

Dato' Dr Daing Nasir said with the success of the Sinar ECER programme last year, UMP was always committed and willing to work together with ECERDC to carry on with the initiative in the future.

He also said the high

commitment showed by the responsibility centres, staff association and undergraduate organisation was a testimony that there was no gap between the campus community and local community.

One of the Pekan Agropolitan participants, Abdul Malek Awang Kechik, said he was grateful with the concern showed by the Government in developing the rural society, conducting free extra classes and having healthy activities for the children in a move as part of their efforts to enhance the lifestyle of villagers living in remote areas.

State Entrepreneur Development Committee

Chairman and Bebar State Assemblyman, Dato' Haji Ishak Muhammad officially launched the Innovation Day and closed the Sinar ECER 2011.

Also present at the function were Pahang ECER Managing Director, Mazlan Sharudin, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin, Matahari Association Advisor, Datin Fazia Ali, Matahari Association President, Associate Professor Dr. Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim, CENFED Acting Director, Tuan Haji Jamil Basri and Project Manager, Zainal Bahari.



UMP, PAHANG SEDC FORGED TIES TO SPUR PAHANG'S WEAVING INDUSTRY

In an effort to boost Pahang's weaving industry in Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) joined forces with Pahang State Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Pahang Royal Weaving Development Complex in Kampung Soi, Kuantan on May 23, 2012.

It was held in conjunction with the official opening of Tunku Azizah

Pahang Royal Weaving Excellence Centre.

UMP was represented Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus while Pahang SEDC by its Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Haji Lias Mohd Noor.

Also present were Pahang Menteri Besar, Dato' Sri Diraja Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob and State Tourism, Heritage, Family and Women Development Committee

Chairman, Dato' Shafik Fauzan Sharif.

In his speech, Dato' Sri Diraja Haji Adnan suggested that researches be carried out to identify methods that could ensure products produced by the industry could be marketed in a large scale, completed in a short time and sold at a lower price.

He also suggested that the products be diversified and made into things such as bags, chair pads and shoes.

He noted that product branding was equally important and hoped that products created could be patented as soon as possible to see to it the safety and security of intellectual property.

Professor Dato' Dr Rosli Mohd Yunus said the collaboration would involve the expertise of two UMP's researchers - Associate Professor Dr. Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim of Faculty of Chemical & Natural

Resources Engineering and Associate Professor Dr Zularisam Ab Wahid of Faculty of Civil Engineering & Natural Resources.

Dr. Mimi Sakinah would work on making permanent coloured threads by using bio-mass material such as dragon fruit while Dr. Zularisam Ab Wahid would treat the industrial waste by using membrane bio-reactor (MBR) so the discharge is safe and harmless to the environment, he added.

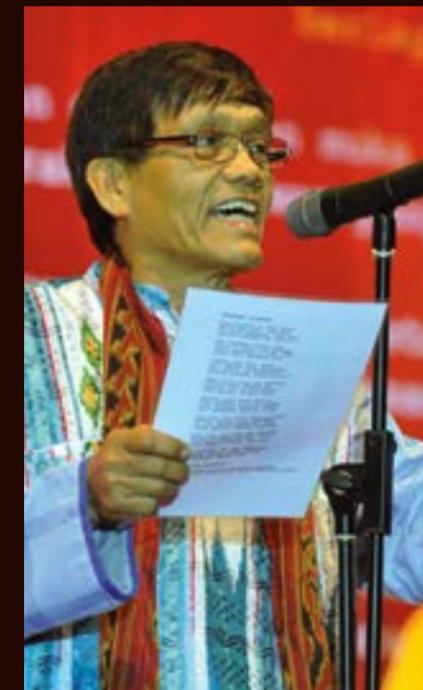
He also said they would engage Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam, Perbadanan Kraftangan Malaysia dan SIRIM Berhad in the works.

Later, Dr. Mimi Sakinah received a letter of appointment as a member of the Pahang Royal Weaving Excellence Executive Council.

More than 500 people turned for the event and had the opportunity to witness the launching of Blueprint 2012-2016 and visited the complex.

Dato' Sri Diraja Haji Adnan suggested that researches be carried out to identify methods that could ensure products produced by the industry could be marketed in a large scale, completed in a short time and sold at a lower price.





RIONG POETRY NIGHT IGNITED A SYNERGY OF NEW GENERATION

The efforts that we have taken today will have an impact to the strength and stability to develop the country's future socio-economic and politics

Some 3,000 undergraduates including those from AMIK Tunas Bangsa, Indonesia turned up to be mesmerized by singers and poets performing a variety of poetic songs and lyrical poems during the Riong Poetry Night organised by Berita Harian and Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) at the Sports Complex in Gambang on March 9, 2012.

Last year, the theme was on abuse, abandonment of babies and toddlers and infanticide while this year, the message was on youths.

The night's theme was 'Generate the Mind, Transform the Youth: Aspiration of the New Generation'.

The event was jointly also organised by Malaysia Youth Council (MYC) and UMP Women Association (Matahari) and was held in conjunction with the university's 10th anniversary this year.

According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, the event was held to show how proud UMP felt in being able to build and sustain relationships with the literary group, youths and locals.

It also reflected the link brought about from a strategic alliance struck between UMP, via Matahari



Association with MYC in implementing youth development programmes especially in Pahang, he added.

Dato' Daing Nasir said the future of the country and its people was strongly related to how far the commitment and efforts were put in to have youths, whom largely included undergraduates, on the right track.

"The efforts that we have taken today will have an impact to the strength and stability to develop the country's future socio-economic and

politics," he added.

Dato' Dr Daing Nasir led the poetry recital with a piece by Wan Helmy Zain titled, 'Wasiat Perjuangan' (The Battle Will).

Others included Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainudin, Berita Harian Education Editor, Muhd Yusof Abu Bakar and Ifhamuddin Mohamed of MYC.

Veteran art activist and comedy actor, Sabri Yunus was the master of ceremony for the night and he also recited a humorous poem called

'Mat 34' which had the guest tickled.

Among the highlights including a recital by 2004 South East Asia (SEA) Write winner Dr. Zurinah Hassan with a poem titled 'Selamatkan Anak-anak Kita' (Save Our Children), 2005 SEA Write winner Abdul Ghafar (Pak Agi) read the 'Gurindam Negara Bijak' (Poem of A Wise Nation) while Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI)'s Malay Literature Head Department, Profesor Madya Datuk Dr Mohd Rosli Saludin delivered 'Teromba Wahai Anak Muda' (Saga of A Young Man).

The monologue performances were interspersed with recitals of Quranic verses by reality programme Imam Muda season two winner, Imam Hassan, who also gave heartfelt advices.

Other performances were by Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Puncak Alam Campus' Performing Arts Faculty Lecturer, Wani Ardy who sang 'Askar dan Belajar' (Soldiers and Learning), rock group Jinbara vocalist Tia (Shamsul Bakhtiar Zakaria) and reality programme Akademi Fantasia season nine winner, Hazama who sang two songs 'Cinta Teragung' (The Greatest Love) and 'Pokok' (Tree).



1,000 UNDERGRADUATES LIVEN UP GREEN CAMPUS PROGRAMME

More than 1,000 Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates in Pekan campus turned up to take part in the Green Campus programme and No Plastic Bag On Saturday campaign aimed at enhancing awareness on preserving nature.

This was in line with the call made by the Government.

The university's management also took part in the activities outlined which started with aerobic exercise at 7.30am.

It was followed by other events such as cycling from the Students Activity Centre Square to the lake, which was a three-kilometre ride.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim led the activities and participated in the walking event, canoeing and later, released fish fry in the lake located next to the library.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the objective was to create a livelier surrounding in the campus to make it more cheerful and conducive for learning.

"One's affection for the campus does not necessarily need to mean one merely being involve



"One's affection for the campus does not necessarily need to mean one merely being involve in a campaign but needs to make the efforts more meaningful by protecting the natural setting in the campus."

in a campaign but needs to make the efforts more meaningful by protecting the natural setting in the campus.

"This includes making sure cleanliness of the environment and being civilised enough when using facilities in the campus.

"At the same time, we need to show concern in protecting the nature and support the Government's efforts in making Saturdays as No Plastic Bag day.

He said this in his speech at the launching of the two events in UMP Pekan campus on March 3, 2012.

He hoped that the campaign would be made into an annual event, not merely a seasonal one.

In fact, the campaign could give a new phenomenon to undergraduates in supporting the Green Campus campaign especially the 'No Plastic Bag on Saturday' campaign.

He added that they could start not using plastic bags in the Café or

students' hostels.

The Vice-Chancellor also planted a tree – Golden Chain tree, as a show of support to the "Green The Earth" campaign in the Pekan campus.

According to Programme Director and bachelor degree Faculty of Mechanical Engineering undergraduate, Hamizatun Mohd Fazi, 22, she was thankful that the programme, held for the first time, received good response especially from the Police Undergraduate Voluntary Corp (SUKSIS), Naval Reserve Officers Training Units (ROTU), Civil Defence Voluntary Corp and UMP staff themselves.

Siti Maryam Nordin, 20, an industrial biotechnology bachelor's degree undergraduate from Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology said, she was all for the programme for it emphasised the need to appreciate the environment.

The programme also helped to forge closer ties among the students as



well as able to increase awareness on the importance to preserve the environment for the sake of future generation.

Among those present were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor

Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin and Dean of Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Ir. Zulkeflee Khalidin.



CENDEKIA BITARA AWARD RECOGNIZES & REWARDS EXCELLENT LECTURERS, RESEARCHERS



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) recently held its annual Cendekia Bitara 2011 Award Night – with the theme “Metamorphosis” – to reflect the decade-long journey UMP undertook to transform the university into an excellent and creative engineering and technology academic higher institution, in support of the larger national clarion call to boost the quality of Malaysia’s tertiary education.

UMP Chancellor, His Royal Highness (HRH) the Crown Prince of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Al-Haj Ibnu Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta’in Billah officiated the event held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kuantan on April 28, 2012.

Also present that night were the chairman of the university’s board of directors Dato’ Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib and board member Dato’ Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman.

Twenty four winners – including three in the category of teaching

excellence (APC) – received the Cendekia Bitara awards from HRH Tengku Abdullah.

In his address, the Crown Prince proudly acknowledged the continued commitment by the university’s management to hold the event annually as a dedicated manifesto to encourage the acculturation of research, academic publications and innovations as the very backbone of UMP.

“The research and development (R&D) as well as innovative activities conducted by UMP should continue to add value to the national agenda, especially when this year is contemporarily declared as the driving year of Science & Innovation.

“Tonight’s award presentation, as an appropriate avenue to announce the excellent achievements made by UMP in research, academic publications and innovations, should be publicly highlighted to endear it to be the driving factor for students to opt

The research and development (R&D) as well as innovative activities conducted by UMP should continue to add value to the national agenda, especially when this year is contemporarily declared as the driving year of Science & Innovation

UMP as their first choice university in pursuing tertiary education in the fields of engineering and technology,” emphasized Tengku Abdullah at the opening of the Cendekia Bitara Award Night ceremony.

The Crown Prince also recommended that the deciding criteria in awarding the winning research, academic publications and innovative activities should take into account their feasible implementation and benefits to the communities at large.



Meanwhile, UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim, highlighted that in comparison to 2010, the university saw 13.5% increase in the number of research activities conducted in 2011, totaling some 215 projects with grants worth RM9.95 million.

“Overall, the country also saw a rising number of impactful publications and journals. At UMP, the figure surged 26% from 103 in 2010 to 130 last year,” the Vice-Chancellor added.

With such significant rise, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing said the university has taken into cognizance the importance of securing intellectual property rights, and has submitted applications for 57 patents, six copyrights, four trademarks and one industrial design to be accredited to UMP for its R&D projects and output.

Out of these projects, he said, five were successful contracts worth RM 1.54 million carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), Pahang State Agriculture & Industry Development Board (LKPP), SIRIM Bhd, Indah Water Konsortium Bhd and Universiti Kuala Lumpur.

Completing and complementing the university’s R&D ecosystem, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted that UMP now has 148 PhD academic staff and 505 doctoral postgraduates to carry out activities of research, academic publications and innovations.

At the Cendekia Bitara award presentation that night, seven winners – from the faculties of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (FKEE) and Chemical Engineering & Natural Resources (FKKSA) – received their accolades in the field of research: Dr Rizalman Mamat, Nor Maniha Abdul Ghani and Associate Professor Dr Ahmed N Abdalla from FKEE; and Dr Iqbal Ahmed, Associate Professor Dr Hayder A Abdul Bari, Dr Arun Gupta and Associate Professor Dr Abdurahman Hamid Nour from FKKSA.

All seven recipients took home certificates of appreciation and cash prizes worth RM5,000 and RM3,000 for international and domestic



recognitions, respectively.

Meanwhile, among 14 others who received their Cendekia Bitara’s publication in impact journal categorical awards include Associate Professor Dr. Zularisam Abdul Wahid from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA) for his research on water; Dr Syed Mohd Saufi Tuan Chik (FKKSA) for his research entitled “*Journal of Chromatography A*”; and Professor Dr Jose Rajan from the Faculty of Science & Industry Technology.

This year, UMP also presented a new award category – APC – in appreciation of outstanding academic staff and their excellent teaching and learning methods, applying the innovative and creative approaches to produce holistic and competitive human capital resources.

The three winners in their respective engineering, applied science and applied social science faculties were Associate Professor Dr Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim from FKKSA (for engineering); Aziman Abdullah from the Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKPP – applied science); and Dr Nik Aloesnita Nik Mohd Alwi from the Centre for Modern Languages & Human Science (PBMSK – applied social science). Each of the winners received a certificate of appreciation and RM5,000 cash prize.

Three other lecturers also received tokens of appreciation – they were Hazizulden Abdul Aziz (FKEE); Wan Muhammad Syahrir Wan Hussin (FSKPP); Nor Ashikin



Abdul Aziz (PBMSK); Luqman Hakim Ahmad Shah from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering; and Lee Chia Kuang from the Faculty of Technology.

According to Professor Dato’ Dr Daing, he hoped the APC initiative will encourage UMP academicians to excel further and readily support the university’s efforts in academic quality enhancement – which forms part of the University Key Result Areas (UKRA).

Other components of the UKRA, which will help propel UMP into a world class technology university, include academic programme empowerment, infrastructure, quality student intake and academic staff recruitment, said the Vice-Chancellor.

“In addition, the APC category has been identified to be the platform from which UMP will nominate qualified teaching staff to partake in the National Academic Award (AAN), in accordance to the criteria and standards set by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE),” concluded Professor Dato’ Dr Daing.



MALAYSIA SCIENCE ACADEMY VISITED UMP

A 20 member delegation from the Malaysia Science Academy (MSC) and academicians from local and abroad visited Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) to hold discussion and share expertise in research findings on May 8, 2012.

They also toured the university's laboratory facilities.

The visit was held on the sidelines of the delegates' trip to Lynas Advanced Material Plant in Gebeng, Kuantan and the International Rare Earth Symposium organised by ASM in Kuala Lumpur recently.

The delegate members comprised a group of independent think tank in science and technology and members of the National Professors Council (NPC) - a body

of more than 1,500 from public and private universities.

They were involved in a comprehensive study on rare earth issues as well as its potentials that could contribute to the country's economy.

Among those present were ASM Vice-President ASM, Datuk Ir Ahmad Zaidee Laidin who is also UMP visiting professor and Alastair S Neill, a rare earth expert from Canada and Dacha Strategic Metals Vice Executive President.

Others included Peking University's Chemical Material and Rare Earth Application Laboratory Director, Professor Chun-Hua Yan, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)'s Safety Management Department Analytical Laboratory Head, Christoph Wilhelm from



Germany and Jack Lifton, co-founder of Technology Metals Research LLC from the US.

The delegate members were received by UMP's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz and Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Profesor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin.

According to Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham, the visit provided the opportunity for UMP to share knowledge in findings on rare earth study with the foreign experts.

Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham, who has been appointed to sit in ASM Rare Earth Committee and Chairman of UMP Rare Earth Research Work Committee, said

the university had many researchers conducting studies relating to rare earth.

"The visit also gives the opportunity to UMP to hold discussion on working together with KIT and Peking University in academic and research areas," he said after presenting a briefing on UMP to the delegation at the banquet hall, UMP Chancellery.

Dean of Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology, Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd. Yusoff said findings on rare earth study carried out by her and Professor Jose Rajan, together with Trivandrum College University (India) dan Noritake Company (Japan), managed to produce new complex dielectric compound in nanocrystal form.

She said this could be exploited

The delegate members comprised a group of independent think tank in science and technology and members of the National Professors Council (NPC) - a body of more than 1,500 from public and private universities



in electronic material application for consumer daily usage which would be more environmental-friendly.

She also said the compound had potentials for microwave ceramics application sample with low dielectric loss that would be able to react by making full use of the rare earth elements in thulium.

The research finding made two years ago was published in the Journal of Alloys and Compounds this year.

Dato' Dr. Daing said he hoped the visit would be a beneficial one, to be followed by creating a cooperation networking where expertise could be shared with foreign experts.

"This, in turn, could further encourage an active research culture in UMP," he added.



MENTOR MINISTER LAUNCHED UMP COOPERATIVE

Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister and Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Mentor Minister Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob launched Koperasi UMP Berhad and UMP Co-op Book Shop at the Chancellery Square, Gambang on March 10, 2012.

Koperasi UMP Berhad is a cooperative that unified all staff members and undergraduates with a business plan that offered long term profits to be enjoyed by all.

Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri said as of end of January this year, 9,141 cooperatives had been registered in the country including 690 in Pahang.

He said if in 2009, the cooperatives only contributed one percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but with the growing number of cooperatives registered,

the targeted increase of five percent to the GDP could be achieved by 2013.

"This clearly shows that the role of cooperative in helping to generate the nation's income is no small matter.

"The National Cooperative Policy 2002-2010 introduced by the Government gave room for cooperative management to grow in a more systematic way such as having proper business development programmes, better access to financing resources, helping to instill entrepreneurial values and form an improved means to regulate the cooperatives," Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri said in his speech.

He also announced a grant of RM30,000 to Koperasi UMP Berhad and another RM30,000 to UMP Undergraduates Consumer Movement - based on projects



submitted by the latter's members.

He added that the movement played a role in creating awareness and providing information on consumerism to students, parents and public on prudent spending and to not to be easily duped.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said since the university's inception 10 years ago, several attempts were made by staff and undergraduates to set up a cooperative.

"Due to the unanimity showed that was based on the union of mind and unity in action all this while, Koperasi UMP Berhad became a reality.

"The UMP Co-op Book Shop to be launched soon after this is the first initiative that reflects Koperasi UMP Berhad's commitment in giving a significant impact on UMP's denizens' welfare and need,

The National Cooperative Policy 2002-2010 introduced by the Government gave room for cooperative management to grow in a more systematic way such as having proper business development programmes, better access to financing resources, helping to instill entrepreneurial values and form an improved means to regulate the cooperative

as a whole," he added.

He also said UMP's management viewed the development as positive especially in its effort to carry out UMP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 that involved four University Key Result Areas (UKRA).

With the right and focused business plan, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said the cooperative

making profits," Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir said.

He added that with high commitment, honesty, strong governance and excellent corporate culture, Koperasi UMP Berhad could be turned into a respected and competitive cooperative movement.

Dato' Sri' Ismail Sabri also gave away incentive grants of RM1,000



would be able to make important contribution that fulfilled the strategy and initiative under the second UKRA - financial sustainability.

He also said the cooperative management must work closely and move together with UMP management to ensure that the objectives and aims of the Koperasi UMP Berhad were translated accordingly to the benefits of its members.

"The cooperative management needs to make the best in creativity and be sensitive in order to concentrate, explore and seek opportunities and potentials that can bring in added values while

each to UMP, UiTM Jengka and Ikip Pahang for setting up student consumer movements in their campuses.

An additional RM2,000 each was also given to UMP and UNITEN in Muadzam Shah to get them started with consumerism programmes.

Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri also visited Kedai Produk 1Malaysia (KR1M) and spent time mingling with UMP undergraduates at the cafeteria that served the Menu Rakyat 1Malaysia (MR1M) as well as students' menu offered at the rate of RM2 for breakfast and RM3.50 for lunch.

He added that to date, there were 90 premises and five



universities including UMP that offered KR1M and MR1M products.

Also present were Malaysia Cooperative Commission Pahang Branch Director, Zahari Abdul Aziz, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin and Koperasi UMP Berhad Chairman, Abdul Aziz Mohd Azoddein.

HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL JOINED UMP DENIZENS IN BREAKING OF FAST AND IFTAR



The guests comprised students from schools in Pekan, participants of Women in Social Enterprise (WISE) programme, and UMP denizens.



Higher Education Ministry Secretary General, Datuk Ab Rahim Md Noor joined some 700 guests in breaking of fast and iftar at UMP Mosque in Gambang on July 28, 2012.

The guests comprised students from schools in Pekan, participants of Women in Social Enterprise (WISE) programme, and UMP denizens.

Datuk Ab Rahim also gave away contributions of RM200 each to 33 UMP undergraduates and 22 Sultan Ahmad Shah Polytechnic (Polisas) students as well their 'foster families' who were beneficiaries under the Amanaih Ikhtiah Malaysia (AIM) and WISE participants.

"The WISE programme is about matching public institute

of higher learning undergraduates with AIM recipients who become their foster families and in the process, are trained to develop and improve their business skills," he said.

He added that the programme would groom undergraduates to become more competitive and having civic leadership with the right skills.

In fact, it could help to improve their lifestyle and



social-economic standing, he said.

Some 800 undergraduates, 400 entrepreneurs, 100 instructors and 20 AIM officers had taken part in the WISE programme since it was launched in April.

Datuk Ab Rahim also said the undergraduates involved would be evaluated by their supervisors as part of their

co-curriculum activities in their respective public institutes of higher learning.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim hoped the programme, managed by UMP Entrepreneurial Centre, could provide added values to the undergraduates.

He also said the programme could further enhance strategic alliance

developed among the public institutes of higher learning and industry in a bid to help develop the local community.

Later, Datuk Ab Rahim mingled with the guests, performed the solat 'terawih' and joined in the 'moreh'.

He also had his 'sahur' with more than 300 undergraduates at the cafeteria.

2,000 TURNED UP TO CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR CULTURAL NIGHT



The country's multiracial society calls for each citizen, regardless of ethnic background, race and religion, to identify unity as something that is unique and the kind of multiracial unison not found in other countries

Close to 2,000 people from all walks of life turned up to watch a cultural show held in conjunction with the Chinese New Year celebration at the Sports Complex on March 17, 2012.

It was organised by Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Chinese Cultural and Arts Secretariat and Chinese Cultural Committee.

Also present was Member of Parliament for Paya Besar Dato' Haji Abdul Manan Ismail.

He lauded UMP for holding the event which was considered as an effort to promote unity and the 1Malaysia concept, bringing together people from all races and faiths.

"The country's multiracial society calls for each citizen, regardless of ethnic background, race and religion, to identify unity as something that is unique and the kind of multiracial unison not found in other countries," Dato Abdul Manan said when officially launched the programme.

He hoped the present younger generation would make use of



the programme by promoting the cultures of Malaysia.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yusserrie Zainudin said the programme's objective was to give the opportunity to undergraduates to share their understanding on the Chinese culture through academic-related activities.

He added that it would also encourage the society to place importance on unity, regardless of race and country, upholding and responding to Prime Minister's call to embrace 1Malaysia.

He said the university always encouraged undergraduate associations to be actively involved in holding activities that had academic impact on them as well as

the surrounding community.

Programme Director, Tan Ban Lin, 21, was very happy that the celebration was well-received by the society around the campus but especially so the support showed by UMP denizens.

According to 35-year-old Sudanese Mustafa Mohamed Mustafa who is a Technology Faculty masters' degree student, he was excited to be able to be involved in the programme that was rich in knowledge about the Chinese people, their tradition and culture.

He added that programme such as this would indirectly encourage people from different races to be appreciative of each other and promoted harmony among university staff, students and local

community.

The visitors were also entertained to a variety of performances and among them were traditional and modern dances, a Chinese orchestra, a Dragon dance and mask-changing show.



130 RESEARCH FINDINGS EXHIBITED AT CITREX 2012



The competition, which attracted 88 academic staff and 42 undergraduates representing eight faculties, aimed at highlighting research findings in UMP to be contested at a higher level, be it national or international level.

faculties, aimed at highlighting research findings in UMP to be contested at a higher level, be it national or international level.

According to Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, the programme was also the best platform to evaluate creativity of the researchers and undergraduates and contribute to the development of technology for the future.

"Out of the total projects exhibited, 22 products were awarded with gold medals, 44 with silver medals and 39 with bronze medals," he said in his speech during the closing of CITREX 2012.

He also presented the medals to the deserving winners.

Professor Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus added that the capability of researchers in creating new products and knowledge-based technology would be able to place UMP on the international map.



Associate Professor Dr. Abdulrahman Hamidnour of the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resource Engineering (FKKSA) won Best of the Best Award category for his project, 'A Technique for Emulsion Fuel'.

Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, Dr Azhari Hamid Nourdan Agung were also involved in the research.

The Best of the Best Award for student category was won by Norazura Abdul Halim and Rosyati Hamid with their project, 'Detection and Summation of Pus Cell for Sputum Quality Testing'.

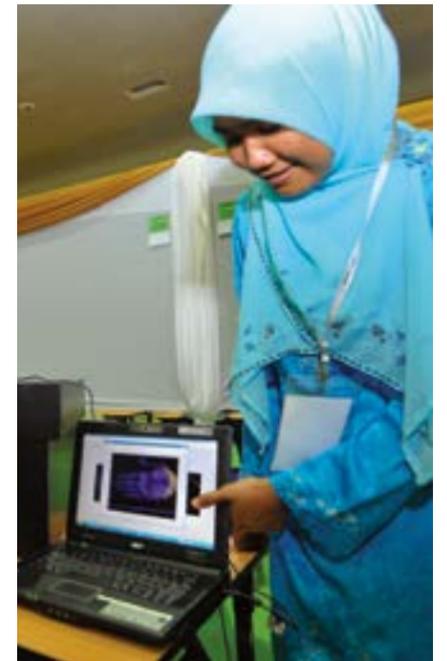
The Special Award (Green Technology), sponsored by the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA), was won by Siti Fatimah Haji Che Osmi from the same faculty with her work on 'Waste to Wealth: Ei-MAS Filter Media for Drinking Water Purification'.

Other researchers involved

in the work were Dr. Wan Mohd Faizal Wan Ishak, Mohammad Iqram Zulkifli and Muamar ZulIkhman Nazeri.

Others who took home the gold medal were Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (PBMSK) lecturer Abdul Kamil Jamaludin for his project, 'Kit Interview Akinnah Hati', Ir Zulkeflee Khalidin with his research on electronic angklung while Husna Hashim for the 'My Cash Kit'.

For the student category, the gold medal winners were Rawaida Jaafar and Faradila Naim of the Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (FKEE) for their project - 'Unclean Hand Detection Machine Using Vision Sensor', Muhammad Iqram Zulkifli with 'I-POA Filter Media for treatment Industrial Waste Water' and Nurul Ain Zainodin for 'The Suitability of Anadora Granosa As An Alternative To Limestone For Ameliorating Surface Water Acidification'.



31 MEDALS GARNERED BY UMP RESEARCHERS IN ITEX 2012



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) researchers garnered 31 medals – five gold medals, 17 silver medals and nine bronze medals in the International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition 2012 (ITEX) (ITEX)

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) researchers garnered 31 medals – five gold medals, 17 silver medals and nine bronze medals in the International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition 2012 (ITEX) held in Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre on May 19, 2012 recently.

Dr D.M. Reddy Prasad from the Faculty of Chemical & Natural

Resources Engineering, together with researchers - Associate Professor Dr. Md Maksudur Rahman Khan, Dr. Mohammad Dalour Hossen Beg, Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, Dr. Iqbal Ahmed and Ong Huey Ruey took home the gold medal for their work titled, "Development of Jatropa Oil based Bio-Adhesive for Plywood Application."

Other works that won the gold medals

were a study by Professor Dr. Korada Viswanatha Sharma from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering titled, "New Coolants for Enhanced Performance in Automobile Radiators and Manufacturing Process."

The research was also a joint effort with researchers Dr. Kumaran Kadirgama, Dr. Rizalman Mamat, Professor Dr. Rosli Abu Bakar, Wan Azmi Wan Hamzah, Dr. DM Reddy Prasad and Dr. Arun Gupta.

The third gold medal belonged to researchers from Faculty of Mechanical Engineering - Ahmad Basirul Subha Alias, Asnul Hadi Ahmad, Dr. Mahadzir Ishak @ Muhammad, Ir. Mohd Rashidi Maarof and Mohd Sazali Salleh for their work on "Heat Regulator System in A Furnace."

Two more gold medals were awarded to Dr. Ahmad Razlan Yusoff, Hazami Che Hussain, Muhamad Hafifi Mansor from Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering for their work on "Intelligent Milling Tools for High Productivity in Machining Operation"

while Dr Fathima Shahitha, Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff and Dr. Chong Kwok Feng from the Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology, for their research titled "Metal Nanofibers with Unmatched Surface Area for Electronic Application."

The 17 silver medals were contributed by research works carried out by the Centre for

Modern Languages & Human Sciences (PBMSK) (1), Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKPP) (1), Faculty of Technology (FT) (2), Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (FKEE) (4), Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) (3), Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FKM) (2) and Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology (FIST) (4).

Among the interesting research works conducted were electronic 'angklung' created by the Dean of Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Ir. Zulkeflee Khalidin, Nik Mohd. Zaitul Akmal Mustapha and Wan Norhisham Mohd. Rashid as well as a kit to check the liver's condition called Akinnah Intervention Kit, produced by Abdul Kamil Jamaludin, Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad Nubli Abdul Wahab dan Tuan Sidek Tuan Muda.

The nine bronze medals were contributed by FIST (3), PBMSK (2), FSKPP (1), FKEE (1), FKKSA (1) and FKASA (1).

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, in a meeting with the researchers, said he was proud with their achievements and hoped that the success attained would spur more new findings discovered through better innovative means with the benefits and expertise extended and enjoyed by the people and country.



2ND DSSCM SEMINAR ON INCULCATING WORK SAFETY CULTURE

The seminar was also a platform where participants could share their experience and expertise as well as discuss about the new direction in OSH's leadership and management, be it at the national level or globally

A second seminar on developing and sustaining work safety culture in Malaysia (DSSCM II) was held at Astaka Hall, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) in Gambang on May 24, 2012.

It was jointly organised by Faculty of Technology, UMP, Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT), Centre for Continuing Educational and Professional Development (CENFED) and Malaysia Occupational Safety and Health Officers Association (MySHO).

The theme was 'Driving Zero Harm through Effective Leadership in Developing Safety Culture for the Survival of Future Generation', focusing on topics relating to action and behavior of workers at workplaces and adopting safety culture.

It was officially closed by Human Resource Deputy Minister, Senator Dato' Maznah Mazlan.

In her speech, Dato' Maznah said although Malaysia had a comprehensive legal framework on occupational safety such as the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 (Act 514) which was under the ministry's purview, risks of accidents and dangers at workplaces were still high if awareness on these things was low among employers and employees.

"In view of this, the ministry's occupational health and safety department (DOSH) is serious in its enforcement aspect to ensure that employers and employees adhered to the provisions under Act 514 and all related legal subsidiaries," she added.

She also said the employers



themselves had a bigger role to play - which was to make sure a safe working place for employees instead of putting too much effort on making profits so much so that their safety was compromised.

She reminded occupational safety and health officers as well as occupational safety and health committees in work places to carry out their functions with credibility and integrity.

The Programme Chairman and Faculty of Technology Lecturer, Dr Norazura Ismail said the seminar could help inculcate safe work culture in work places by instilling zero-harm mindset.

She added that this could be done by creating the awareness and instilling the habit at institutes of higher learning and industries for the good of the future generation.

The seminar was also a platform where participants could share their experience and expertise as well as discuss about the new direction in OSH's leadership and management, be it at the national level or globally.

"Malaysia's vibrant economic development is fuelling the growth of a variety of domestic industries.

"As such, it is a must for organisations in every industry to give high commitment in developing

and maintaining a conducive working place that is healthy and safe by combining three or four components - employees, employers, environment and behavior," she said.

Eight local and foreign professionals and experts were invited to share their knowledge and expertise in the seminar. Among them were DOSH director Professor Dato' Dr Ir Johari Basri with his paper titled, 'Future Challenges in Developing & Sustaining Safety Culture' AKEPT Deputy Director (Leadership, Research and Innovation Centre), Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Fadzil Mohd Idris who spoke on 'Effective Leadership in Developing Safety and Health in Higher Education: Transition from Education to the Workplace' and Golder Associates Inc Consultant from Hawaii, USA Jas Singh with his paper - 'Dynamic of Industrial Hygiene Assessment in Oil and Gas Industries'.

Others included Social Security Organisation (SOCISO) Deputy Chief Executive (Operation), Dr. Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohammed, Dean of Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Professor Dr. Zahari Taha, Malaysian Institute of Nuclear Technology (MINT) Waste Technology Group Chief, Dr Mohd Abdul Wahab Yusof, INFINEON Technologies (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. Occupational Safety and Health Senior Manager, Dr Khatijah Jumangat and Associate Professor Dr Ahmad Rahman Songi.

More than 300 participants from various industries attended the seminar that included exhibitions by at least 12 agencies from the public and private sector.

FIST ORGANISED ICONT CONFERENCE ON NANO TECHNOLOGY



The discovery of nano structural material that is applied to electronic goods, energy conservation, health care and environment preservation has attracted the interest of scientists and engineers today in conducting research studies in nano material science and engineering.

As such, an International Conference on Nano Technology 2012 (ICONT 2012) organised by Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology (FIST), together with SIRIM Berhad and Pahang State Government, was a timely move.

It was the right time to do so in a bid to improve research and development activities in nano technology as well as the conference being a platform where exchange of

latest findings in the field could take place among the participants.

The conference attracted 149 participants from 16 countries - Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Australia, Japan, Korea, the US, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Sweden, Russia, United Kingdom, Oman and Austria.

It was officially closed by Information, Science, Technology and Innovation State Committee Chairman, Dato' Haji Mohd Sharkar Shamsudin on May 30, 2012.

Also present were SIRIM Berhad President and Chief Executive, Dr. Zainal Abidin Yusof, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr Rosli Mohd Yunus, FIST Dean, Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff and ICONT 2012 Conference Chairman, Professor Dr

Jose Rajan.

In his speech, Dato' Haji Mohd Sharkar said the conference was in line with the government's objective, as stated in the Malaysian Plan, which was to encourage growth of various sectors in science and technology.

"Under the human resource development plan, research scientists and engineers (RSE) can help realise the Industrial Master Plan and with the involvement of UMP and cooperation provided by the state government, it will spur economic growth in nano technology for the East Coast Economic Region (ECER)," he added.

He was also grateful with the cooperation given by UMP in realising the state's Biodiversity-Biotechnology Strategic Action Plan.



Speaking at the event held at MS Garden Hotel in Kuantan, Dato' Haji Mohd Sharkar said he was proud to see UMP taking equal role in gathering the experts and researchers for it would definitely create a new perspective in discussing the challenges of the future in nano technology.

He also announced that Menteri Besar Pahang, Dato' Sri Diraja Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob had approved a sum of RM20,000 as a show of support by the state government to the hard work of UMP in organising the conference.

On top of that, the state government allocated 10 acres of land to UMP where research activities could be conducted.

Dato' Dr Rosli, representing Vice-Chancellor, said the in depth and comprehensive discussions held throughout the conference brought about an understanding on important aspects such as the latest progress in nano material science and engineering.

In fact, the discovery of synthesis and nano material

The conference attracted 149 participants from 16 countries - Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Australia, Japan, Korea, the US, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Sweden, Russia, United Kingdom, Oman and Austria



processing through more innovative techniques and approaches could produce a variety of features, be it in the form of physical, electrical, chemical and biological, with lower pricing.

In the same event, UMP exchanged memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with Malaysia Chemistry Institute (MCI) and Malaysia Solar Resources (MSR) that paved the way for co-operations in chemical and engineering including

in research and development.

UMP was represented by Professor Dato' Dr Rosli and FIST Dean, Professor Dr Mashitah while MCI by its President, Datuk Dr. Soon Ting Kueh and MSR, by its Managing Director, Ong Ah Hwa.

Also present were MCI Honorary Secretary, Professor Datin Dr. Zuriati Zakaria and Dato' Haji Mohd Amran Wahid from MSR.

UMP'S FLAG FLYING HIGH ON TOP OF MOUNT KINABALU

By: ANUAR ABD. AZIZ

History was made on South East Asia's highest peak, Mount Kinabalu, when Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s flag flew proud after 37 Kinabalu expedition members made it to the top at the break of dawn on June 21, 2012.

The expedition was led by UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim himself and it was organised in conjunction with the university's 10th anniversary celebration.

The members started their climb at 8.30am on June 20 from Timponon Gate.

Physical and mental strength, esprit de corp and team spirit were the main factors that motivated them in their pursuit to conquer the peak and made the dream a reality.

The climb and path, challenges that must be faced by all the members, covered a track of six kilometres before they reached the lodge at Gunting Lagadan (3,025m). It took them between six to eight hours to cover the distance.

The long and grueling trail did not really distract them during the journey as they were enthralled by the panoramic view offered by Mother Nature.

The members rested, ate dinner

and got the taste of what it felt like with a temperature of 10 degree Celcius at the site. They also took the opportunity to have a good rest before moving on to the final lap to reach the top.

The climbers started their walk exactly at 1.30am, leaving Gunting Lagadan to ascend to the top, a distance of 2.7km.

They moved in the dark hours and the coldness hit them hard as it was between two degree Celcius and four degree Celcius. It seemed like a never-ending climb that made it really tough and challenging.

They made it to Sayat-Sayat Hut and reported to the staff on



duty who recorded the trip. Once the members passed Sayat-Sayat Hut, it meant that they were getting close but the journey got even more taxing with the oxygen getting thinner at the high altitude.

However, they were full of spirit, helped each other to move ahead and soldiered on to conquer the highest peak, Low Peak at 4,095m.

Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said solid cooperation, understanding, preparation and teamwork contributed to the success.

"The accomplishment is something symbolic to UMP denizens - with intellectual and physical force, and commitment, we can bring UMP

to glory," he added.

He also congratulated and thanked all who had made the mission a success.

One of the participants, second-year Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (FKEE) undergraduate Shahrul Nirwan Shah Mohamed Mokshin said he was proud and thanked UMP for selecting him to be part of the expedition and being able to complete the mission.

However, Sharul Nirwan Shah suffered from dehydration.

He also said the dedication showed by Vice-Chancellor, other university officials and secretariat motivated him and his friends to

work harder to complete the climb.

It was really a proud moment for him when shouts of "UMP Boleh" (UMP Can!) filled every space of the South East Asia's highest peak. The climbers also made full use of the limited time on Low Peak to take pictures and basked in the beauty of natural wonders created by the Almighty, especially when the sun started to rise.

Words could not express the satisfaction evident on the faces of each of the climbers, for despite being exhausted, they were simply thrilled knowing that they had conquered the peak of Mount Kinabalu.

Physical and mental strength, esprit de corp and team spirit were the main factors that motivated them in their pursuit to conquer the peak and made the dream a reality



35 VOLUNTEERS FROM FACULTY OF CHEMICAL & NATURAL RESOURCES ENGINEERING GAINED VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FROM

2012 WORLD GAS CONFERENCE



FKKSA took a proactive by roping in lecturers and undergraduates to be part of the staff manning the conference and they helped to ensure that all activities and programmes scheduled run smoothly

By: MD. NOOR ARIFIN

A total of 35 final-year gas technology programme undergraduates from the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA), Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) were given a special treat for their role in helping to organise the World Gas Conference (WGC) held in Kuala Lumpur Convention Center on June 21, 2012.

According to Programme Coordinator, Md Noor Arifin, their involvement in the event was not only to develop industrial networking and get to know more people in the field but also to help mould them into being more respectable graduates.

This would also help in realising aims listed out in the University Key Result Area (UKRA), he said.

"FKKSA took a proactive by roping in lecturers and undergraduates to be part of the staff manning the conference and they helped to ensure that all activities and programmes scheduled run smoothly," he said before



the presentation of appreciation certificates to the volunteers of WGC 2012 at Tun Fatimah Hall of the Main Administration Complex in Gambang.

He added that the world-class conference had also helped to introduce UMP as an institute of higher learning that produced graduates in gas engineering.

National Implementation Committee Project Management Head, Ali Aswady said, UMP undergraduates had given the best commitment and he was proud with the cooperation showed by them.

"Their involvement had given them the opportunity to discover technology development in this area.

"In fact, they had seen for themselves how competitive the oil and gas-related industries operating in Malaysia such as PETRONAS and SHELL," he added.

Malaysia was picked to be the organiser this year after the last event was held in Qatar three years ago.

The next conference will be held in Paris in 2015.

In the appreciation ceremony, Ali Aswady presented certificates and souvenirs such as pen drives and AEON vouchers worth RM300 to the UMP volunteers.

Also present were FKKSA Dean, Professor Dr. Jailani Salihon and Industrial and Community

Networking Division Director (BJIM), Professor Dr. Zulkefli Yaakob.

WGC, which is the biggest and most important conference for oil and gas players, recorded the highest number of participants with more than 5,000 took part in the event.





FIST ORGANISED BIOTECHNOLOGY SEMINAR

More than 200 participants comprising those from the industries, undergraduates and civil servants attended a variety of talks during the carnival that touched on topics involving biotechnology in agriculture, health care and industry

By: NAZIRA MAHMUD



A biotechnology seminar was jointly held by Pahang Government and Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology Faculty (FIST) on March 3, 2012.

It was held in conjunction with the state-level Bio-ICT Carnival and served as an effective medium to develop the state's biotechnology especially in introducing and encouraging the application and progress of the field in Pahang.

Dean of FIST, Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff said the biotechnology field in Pahang was still at the intermediate stage and needed to be further expanded.

Dr Mashitah said UMP had a Biodiversity and Biotechnology Centre of Excellence (CoE), a place of knowledge development that combined the expertise and skill of those in the field.

"The centre offers trainings, services and consultations to entrepreneurs and researchers.

"In fact, it is able to optimise the resources of biodiversity and improve research and development in biotechnology and bio-production in Pahang.

"The centre also plays the role of providing explanation to industries, media and public on the Pahang Biodiversity and Biotechnology Strategic Plan and boost up research projects," said Dr. Mashitah who also delivered a talk titled, 'Positioning Pahang State in a Bio-economy'.

Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (Biotechcorp)'s Business

And Investment Development (Industry) Division Vice-President, Zainal Azman Abu Kasim said efforts taken by FIST and the state government was a step forward in the development of biotechnology in Pahang which was rich in biodiversity resources.

More than 200 participants comprising those from the industries, undergraduates and civil servants attended a variety of talks during the carnival that touched on topics involving biotechnology in agriculture, health care and industry.

An exchange of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) document between UMP and Technology Park Malaysia was also held.

UMP was represented by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim while Technology Park Malaysia, by its Biotech Division Head, Fadzhairi Abd Jabar.

Both agencies would work together in developing research works in industrial biotechnology.

The collaboration in academic and industry would also involve sharing of expertise in extraction and selected herbal product quality standard development such as 'kacip fatimah', 'tongkat ali' and 'gaharu'.

The MoU would help in expanding the herbal industry and cater to the market demands while the research development would be able to assist small and medium entrepreneurs in commercialising their products that met the necessary quality standard required in a bid to break into the international market.

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (A&I) APPOINTED AS MCDD HONORARY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER



By: ASSOCIATE CAPTAIN (PA) MOHD AKRAM ABDUL RAZAK

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz was appointed as Malaysia Civil Defence Department's (MCDD) Honorary Assistant Commissioner, effective

from July 3, 2012.

Home Deputy Minister, Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop presented the credentials during the gathering of 3rd National Defence of Undergraduates Corp (Kor SISPA) at Sultan Mizan Hall, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) on July 18, 2012.

Others who received their credentials were Associate Professor Ir Adnan Zulkiple who

Other than the emphasis on excellent academic achievement, being involved in these activities will give added values to undergraduates



was commissioned with the rank of Associate Lieutenant Colonel, Electrical and Electronic Engineering Faculty dean Ir Zulkeflee Khalidin who was commissioned with the rank of Associate Major and Audit Head Mohd Akram Abdul Razak, with the rank of Associate Captain.

According to Professor Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham, the set up of uniform body courses in universities as co-curriculum courses was to reinforce human skills among undergraduates that included instilling *esprit de corp*, self-identity and love for the nation.

"Other than the emphasis on excellent academic achievement, being involved in these activities will give added values to undergraduates," he said after the ceremony. He strongly

encouraged UMP undergraduates to continue making contributions based on the spirit of voluntarism for it would also help to promote the university's name through UMP's SISPA Corp.

A total of 75 MCDD honorary and associate officials comprising public and private institutes of higher learning officers received their credentials and 186 undergraduates were commissioned as lieutenant officers.

Also present was MCDD Director General, Dato' Sulaiman Haji Keling.

To date, UMP has 55 cadet officers being trained under MCDD's syllabus and will receive skill training certificates in rescuing, medic and fire fighting upon completion of training.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN UMP AND MYC TO PRODUCE KNOWLEDGABLE YOUTHS



The initiative would involve a youth development programme on training, leadership and entrepreneurship, on regional and international as well as research and design development



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) forged a strategic alliance with Malaysia Youth Council (MYC) in a move to add values in producing credible and competitive youths.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was held between UMP, represented by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim and UMP Women Association (Matahari) President, Associate Professor Dr. Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim while MYC by President, Mohamed Maliki Mohd. Rapiee and exco member Ahmad Daniar Ismail.

Dato' Daing said the initiative would involve a youth development programme on training, leadership and entrepreneurship, on regional and international as well as research and design development.

He said this during a dinner held in conjunction with the MoU signing at UMP banquet hall in Gambang on February 28, 2012.

He added that the society especially those living around Pekan and UMP campus would get benefits from the pact with MYC.

Dato' Daing said UMP was pleased to acknowledge MYC as a partner for it was a reputable organisation and recognised as the biggest body that represented youths in this country.

He added that the collaboration would need commitment from the NGO, Matahari Association and Centre for Continuing Education and Professional Development (CENFED) in making the joint effort a success.

Mohamed Maliki also said the collaboration would involve developing youths especially those in Kuala Pahang.

He added that MYC would identify youths with potentials while UMP would serve as the university with the technical expertise and help to arrange for trainers and instructors.

He said the Government had allocated RM200 million in youth development, focusing on three areas – leadership, skills and entrepreneurship.

As such, many programmes could be carried out that would benefit the society and youths, defined as those between 18 and 40.

Also present were Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin, Registrar Haji Mustafa Ibrahim, Treasurer

Zainuddin Othman, Head of Librarian, Haji Ruslan Che Pee and CENFED Acting Director, Haji Jamil Basri.

In conjunction with the signing ceremony, a dialogue was held with MYC titled, 'Youth Empowerment and Volunteerism – Catalyst to Collaboration Networking'.

The panelists were the MYC president, National Youth Personality 2011 Mohd. Rizan Hassan while the moderator was Faculty of Technology lecturer, Mohamad Rozi Hassan.

The dialogue was a success among the undergraduates with more than 400 turned up, sharing their experience and understanding the spirit of volunteerism.

They also found out the opportunities to join youth activities in Malaysia and abroad.

The undergraduates can understand what National Integration is about by getting involved in the process and learn about other peoples' cultures, customs and taboos of thye multi-racial society in Malaysia



40 PARTICIPANTS JOINED UMP EXPEDITION IN FORGING CLOSER TIES WITH SABAHANS



A total of 40 people comprising staff and undergraduates of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) who were also members of an expedition that scaled Mount Kinabalu took the opportunity to get to know the locals in Kampung Lembah Permai, Kundasang in Ranau, Sabah.

The programme, 'Jalinan Mesra Muhibbah' was held on June 19, 2012.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin said the programme was among the activities held in conjunction

with the Mount Kinabalu Expedition and it provided them the chance to know more about the multi-ethnic community.

"The undergraduates can understand what National Integration is about by getting involved in the process and learn about other peoples' cultures, customs and taboos of thye multi-racial society in Malaysia," he said during a familiarisation programme between UMP undergraduates and 12 Dusun families.

He added that the undergraduates, who stayed with the families for a certain period of time, played a role as ambassadors of UMP and in the process, helped to promote the university and distribute information about its educational programmes.

The undergraduates also took part in 'gotong-royong' activities such as painting buildings, cleaning up the village area as well as carry out motivational camps to the children.

Kampung Lembah Permai Headman, Mahatin Sairin said the presence of UMP undergraduates

in the village could help change the perception of youths and make them understand the importance of tertiary education.

"We are happy with this visit which is very meaningful, more so it being the first involving UMP undergraduates.

"In fact, we will also take part in the Cultural Night show by presenting a variety of dances and performances in the spirit of sharing our culture with our visitors," he added.

He also said the villagers were mainly farmers and they would rope in their 'foster children' to work on the land and plant vegetables.

One of the participants, Keshram Raj, who stayed with orchard owner Hain Jasli, said it was an opportunity not to be missed for he would be planting all kinds of

vegetables on the five-acre of land.

The community programme was also made possible with the cooperation from Sabah's National Unity and Integration Department and undergraduates from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). Also present were Registrar, Haji Mustafa Ibrahim and Treasurer, Zainuddin Othman.

After the programme, the participants proceeded to go to Kinabalu National Park to continue with their mission and they were led by UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim in creating history by hoisting UMP's flag on top of Mount Kinabalu.

The climb was in conjunction with the university's 10th anniversary celebration this year.





HISTORIC WIN FOR UMP CIVIL ENGINEERING UNDERGRADUATES AT TAIWAN IEYI 2012

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) recorded another historic and momentous win when four undergraduates from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA) coveted two gold and two silver medals, as well as six additional special awards at the International Exhibition for Young Inventors (IEYI 2012) in Taiwan recently.

The event – held on February 12 this year and organized by the Vietnam Far East University and Taiwan Invention & Intellectual Property Association – saw UMP bringing home the first gold medal

through the research work of Amirudin Ibrahim, entitled “*UMPiae: The Integration of Fish & Vegetable Wastes From Fresh Market to Generate Alternative Energy*”.

Supervised by FKASA lecturer, Abdul Syukor Abdul Razak, Amirudin’s project – culminating in the generation of integrated alternative energy from fish and vegetables waste – also bagged two special awards, the *Taiwan Invention Association Special Award* and the *Korea Invention Academic Award*.

Proudly sharing a second gold

was Mohamad Hafizuddin Ramli, who intrigued the judges with his research project called “*Phytogreen: Utilizing Natural Driven Process for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Towards An Environmental-friendly Sustainable Development*”.

Mohamad Hafizuddin’s work demonstrated the absorption capability of plants and natural resources used in treating domestic wastewater, passing up to the point of “Standard A” international benchmark.

Like Amirudin, Mohamad Hafizuddin also took home two additional awards, the *Korea Invention Association Award* and the *Asia Invention Creativity Special Award*.

Meanwhile, the two silver medals went to Mohamad Amirul Shazwan Zakaria for his work entitled “*The Development of Fungus sp. Pycnosporus sanguinis to Enhance The Performance of Artificial Bait to Attract Termites From Empty Fruit Bunch (EFB) as*



Celebrating the historic moments, Mohamad Hafizuddin has this to exclaim: “Through proactive participation in international exhibitions, we hope to introduce UMP and promote our research ideas to the world!”



Environmental-friendly Pesticide”; and to Muthukumar Sunthara Raju for “*The Potential Of Allium Cepa (Onion) As Natural Corrosion Inhibitor For Passivation In Industrial Chill Wastewater System*”.

Mohamad Amirul’s research of using empty fruit bunches from oil palm as termites traps and supervised by Abdul Syukor, was also given due recognition with the *Asia Invention Association Special Award*.

Another FKASA lecturer Suryati Sulaiman, who mentored Muthukumar in his project of utilizing onion peels as a natural corrosion inhibitor for industrial underground wastewater pipes, was accredited with the *Tainan City Special Award*.

For the multiple awards garnered by UMP’s four young researchers, Abdul Syukor expressed his hopes that they would be a catalyst for

other undergraduates to follow suit and acculturate themselves with innovative inventions.

Icing the cake for UMP’s brilliant showing at the IEYI 2012, the World Invention Intellectual Property Associations (WIIPA) has conferred “*The Best Instructor*” awards to the two FKASA lecturers Abdul Syukor and Suryati, and another to the Assistant Registrar of UMP’s Department of Student Affairs & Alumni, Abdul Rahman Ahmad, for his tireless collective contributions, leading to the four winning research projects.

Celebrating the historic moments, Mohamad Hafizuddin has this to exclaim: “Through proactive participation in international exhibitions, we hope to introduce UMP and promote our research ideas to the world!”

TEAM UMP EMERGED AS WINNER IN MALAY CATEGORY IN ROYAL DEBATE



By: MOHD FERDAUS MUSA

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) debate team did the university proud when they emerged as champion in the Malay category in the Royal Debate 2012 by beating Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) team at the finals held at Cultural Hall, USM, Penang on February 15, 2012.

UMP, who served as the opposing team, was represented by Shabnam Parween Mohd Salim, Nur Aida Faisal, Mohd Amirul Hafiz Abdul Hamid and Wu Daniel.

They took home RM4,000 cash, a trophy and certificates.

It was a double joy for the team as Nur Aida Faisal was also announced as the best speaker and won RM1,000 cash, a trophy and

It was a proud moment too when two speakers from UMP, Muhammad Qusyairi Hashim and Siti Aisyah Mustapha, were listed as among the five best overall speakers

certificate.

Another debate team who took part in the Malay category (main) won third place and was rewarded with RM1,500 cash, a trophy and certificates.

The team comprised Siti Aisyah Mustapha, Muhammad Qusyairi Hashim, Qamaruddin Mohd Fauzi and Muhammad Iqram Zulkifli.

The winner for the category was Universiti Malaya (UM) while Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) was the first runner up.

It was a proud moment too when two speakers from UMP, Muhammad Qusyairi Hashim and Siti Aisyah Mustapha, were listed as among the five best overall speakers.

Siti Aisyah also added another prize when she received a MADUM (Malaysia Universities Debate Council) Special Award for being the driving force in a debate in a public university.

Siti Aishah Mustafa, 22, a third-year Applied Science degree student (Industrial Biotechnology), said she was thankful that UMP team did well in the competition.

"The win reflected UMP team's capability in being competitive against other universities," she added.

She hoped that the win would motivate the team to continue to be successful in the future.

Higher Education Deputy Minister, Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah officially closed the event and presented prizes to the winners.



'JENKING' THE CHAMPS IN SHELL ECO-MARATHON ASIA 2012

A group of undergraduates who were members of the SAE-UMP Club Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Chapter did the university proud when the car they invented called 'Jengking' (Scorpion) was announced as the winner in the Urban Diesel category at the Shell Eco- Marathon Asia 2012.

The event was held at Sepang International Circuit on July 7, 2012.

'Jengking' was a vehicle designed by SAE-UMP Chapter that ran on diesel.

The name 'Jengking' was chosen as it symbolised speed and prowess in facing all kinds of challenges.

The Team's Advisor, Professor Dr. Rosli Abu Bakar said he was thankful with the win which was something unexpected but much anticipated by UMP denizens since the last three competitions.

"This year, UMP sent two teams for the competition, SAE-UMP Chapter team for the urban concept category

The secret behind the success was the firm support from UMP and the accommodating attitude among group members

that runs on diesel as fuel and another team, UMP-MECHAPRO, for the prototype gasoline fuel.

"The win entitled the winner to bring home USD2,000 in cash and a trophy," he added.

'Jengking' also recorded a commendable record of 50.8 km for a litre of diesel, beating the rest of 119 cars submitted by teams from countries in Asia and Middle East.

A total of 1,500 students from 18 countries took part in the competition which was divided into two categories - urban (three wheels) and prototype (four wheels).

SAE-UMP Team Captain, Johli Ibrahim, 23, was elated with the win and all the hard work had paid off after they were announced as the champion.

"The secret behind the success was the firm support from UMP and the

accommodating attitude among group members.

"The success is also due to the commitment of all group members who were willing to spend most of their time, day and night, working on the car.

"Also, we would like to thank UMP teaching staff who provided many ideas and put in a lot effort to complete the project and in the process, making us the champion," he said, adding, 23 undergraduates were involved as well.

They were from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering and Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resource Engineering.

The success was definitely a boost for UMP-MECHAPRO team to continue to work harder after getting 13th placing

in the prototype gasoline fuel category.

Other winners in the competition were NP Distanza-UC from Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore that covered a distance of 118.8 km/kWh and Cikal Cakrawala from Bandung Technology Institute, Indonesia, recording a distance of 74.9 km/kWh with its battery electric prize.

The Solar Prize was won by UKM1, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Petrol Fuel Award by Cikal Cakrasvarna of Bandung Technology Institute, Indonesia that covered 196.3 km/l and Sadewa of Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia - with 152.3 km/l distance while Alternative Diesel Fuel Award winner went to ITS Team 2, from Sepuluh Nopember Technology Institute, Indonesia with a distance of 166.9 km/l (FAME).

SeMAMPAN ORGANISED A FORUM RARE EARTH



More than 300 Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates attended a forum titled, 'Rare Earth Technology: Perception and Fact' to know more about the mineral including the processing and developing aspects as well as issues relating to the construction of a rare earth refinery plant by Lynas Corporation Sdn. Bhd. in Gebeng.

The forum was organised by UMP's Pahang Undergraduates Council (SeMAMPAN) Secretariat, with the cooperation of Student Affairs & Alumni Department (Saffad), at Block W's main lecture hall in UMP Gambang campus on April 19, 2012.

The panelists were Deputy

Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Lynas Malaysia General Manager, Mohd Khairul Salleh Jais, Malaysia Investment Development Malaysia (MIDA) Pahang Director, Hajjah Rosidah Mazlan and Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) Technical Support Division Director, Yassin Haji Sudin.

The moderator was Pahang GPMS Chairman and former Pahang MAMPAN President, Wan Emril Wan Embong.

According to Programme Director and UMP SeMampan Chairman, Nor Adila Said, the event provided an opportunity for undergraduates to get clarification

on the issues from the academic point of view as well as from the experts' views on rare earth applications.

"The explanation is important for undergraduates with engineering and technology background to have better understand, in view of the current situation involving rare earth among the society," said Nor Adila who is a fourth-year chemical engineering student in plant design.

She added that the forum would allow undergraduates to freely give ideas and pose questions and in fact, as an educated lot, it was only right for them to present accurate facts or information to the society.

Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham, when discussing about the operations of Lynas plant, said operations in all plants had their risks.

However, the question was whether the risks could be managed or minimized by not compromising the safety and health aspects of the public and environment, he said.

He added that it must be looked at all aspects.

"Risk management must look at the various aspects - technical, economy, environment, social and others before a decision on an



investment can be made.

"The Lynas plant is no exception and based on the aspects stated, it is categorised as a low-risk plant with all safety conditions, monitoring measures and enforcement steps taken accordingly," said Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham, who has more than 15 years of experience in the industry including plant construction.

Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham is also UMP Rare Earth Research Committee Chairman and sits in Malaysia Science Academy's Rare Earth Committee.

Mohd Khairul also said Lynas plant was a normal plant that processed rare earth concentrates, producing rare earth metal after undergoing physical and chemical processes to separate the mineral's elements.

"Rare earth is a sought-after material used in electronic appliances, aerospace, medical, military, automotive and communication including hand phones. The industry is expected to continue to grow," he added.

He said the operations of Lynas plant in Malaysia was not something that was unique for to date, there were 36 rare earth processing companies running in 14 countries.

Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering undergraduate, Norliana Che Nora@Norazmi, 21, said the programme was an eye-opener with a lot of information gained on the needs of rare earth in the technology world today.



Norliana was among the 100 undergraduates who visited Lynas plant in Gebeng and she was really excited to be able to see the site herself.

A civil engineering student, Sim Sin Yee, 22, said the forum gave a clear picture on what rare earth was all about and how the plant was operated.

Also present at the forum were UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim, Lynas Corporation Ltd Human Resource (Community and Administration) Senior Manager and AELB officials.



The explanation is important for undergraduates with engineering and technology background to have better understand, in view of the current situation involving rare earth among the society



SME-UNIVERSITY INTERNSHIP UNLOCKED OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATES TO OFFER BUSINESS CONSULTATION SERVICE

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Entrepreneurship Centre, SME Corp Malaysia and Higher Education Ministry organised SME-University Internship programme for the first time that involved 24 undergraduates representing four consultation groups.

The programme was held to showcase the undergraduates' capability in providing consultation services to small and medium enterprise (SME) companies.

UMP Entrepreneurship Centre director Dr. Omar Jamaludin said the participants' final presentation was a reflection of their ability to help the companies improve their sales performance by having promotional activities, effective marketing programmes, systematic account management as well as organised and customer-friendly outlet layouts.

"The programme is carried out over six months with two months spent of early research, making final presentation and preparation

of report while three to four months are used for participants to work on assignments in SMEs fixed according to the groups," he said.

He was pleased about the commitment showed by the undergraduates, who were a pioneer group, with the winner picked to represent the university at the finals.

In his speech during the official opening, ministry's entrepreneurial/graduate marketable section senior secretary assistant chief Dr Syahira Hamidon said the participants should be proud of themselves and were a fortunate lot because they now had the experience in entrepreneurship despite studying in engineering subjects.

"This is in line with the Institutes of Higher Learning Entrepreneurial Development Policy as an effort to groom graduates with entrepreneurship characteristics," Dr Syahira said when officially opened the programme at Astaka Hall in UMP on April 5, 2012.

SME Corp Malaysia Pahang

state director Masnani Basirun was satisfied with the cooperation given by UMP in helping to make the programme a success and completed within the stipulated period.

Masnani said the programme also gave the opportunity to entrepreneurs to upgrade their companies' capability and ability to continue to be competitive and progressive.

"Companies involved in the programme achieved a variety of results from the consultations provided with some of them recording sales increase of 75% after three months of supervision.

"A total of 433 undergraduates from 15 public universities and 92 companies have participated in the programme since 2009. The programme is based on Consultation Based Learning For ASEAN SMEs (COBLAS)," Masnani added.

Consulting Sphere Group which offered consultation service to Syarikat Embun Kaseh Beauty Secrets was announced as the winner.

The group's members were Electrical and Electronic Engineering Faculty undergraduate (FKEE) Mohd Solehuddin Mahmud, Mechanical Engineering Faculty (FKM) undergraduate Siti Norsita Mohd Rawi, Technology Faculty (FT) undergraduate Nurul Asyikin Mohamad Ladzem, Computer Science and Software Engineering Faculty (FSKPP) undergraduate Azwan Affandi Md Jahaya and Chemical Engineering and Natural Resource Faculty (FKKSA) undergraduates Azimah Saman and Nor Amalina Hussain.

Also present were SME Corp. Malaysia business development division deputy director Hilyati Muhammad Nasir, SME Corp. Malaysia business development division senior manager Murniati Mokhtar, Global Factor Sdn. Bhd. Managing Director, Haji Ab Razak Hj Azhari, SME Bank entrepreneur skills development centre senior manager Norani Mohd Noor and Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad (PUNB)'s Undergraduate Prosper Unit executive officer Azham Ardin Shah.



SUDAN DELEGATION LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO FORM A CO-OPERATION

A delegation from Omdurman Islamic University (OIU) visited Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) to look into possibilities of forging academic and research co-operations between the two universities.

OIU delegation, led by its Vice-Chancellor Professor Hassan Hassan Abbas Ibrahim, included Pharmaceutical Faculty Dean, Dr. Eltayeb Mohamad Eltayeb, Registrar, Dr. Salih Hasab El Rasoul, Faculty of Engineering Dean, Dr. Muhammad Ali-Haj Allouba, Deputy Dean, Dr Mona Abdel Moneim Mohammad Majeed and Executive Director, Dr Mujahid Mohammed Said.

The welcoming party from UMP consisted of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr. Badhrhisham Abdul Aziz, Centre of Academic & Innovative Competitiveness (CAIC), Associate Professor Dr Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff, International Office Director, Associate Professor Dr Ainol Haryati Ibrahim and university's officials.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim said UMP welcomed the delegation and hoped the visit would bring about a cooperation that both could benefit.

"Even now, UMP has engaged

Even now, UMP has engaged lecturers from Sudan and there are eight undergraduates from the country who are pursuing their doctorate and masters' degrees here

lecturers from Sudan and there are eight undergraduates from the country who are pursuing their doctorate and masters' degrees here," he said in his speech when welcoming the delegation at the Senate meeting room on April 13, 2012.

Professor Hassan said OIU, wholly-owned by the Sudan Government, was set up in 1912.

He added that at that time, it was an institute and upgraded into a university in 1965.

"OIU has 47,000 students

including those studying in 19 colleges and five institutes in Sudan and abroad," Professor Hassan said.

He hoped to see more opportunities between the two universities that could into a co-operation since OIU, through the Faculty of Science Engineering, offered courses in engineering as well.

The delegation also toured UMP Integrated Laboratory and Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering laboratory.



INDONESIA'S UTY DELEGATION CALLED ON UMP

UMP and UTY will establish cooperations in academic that involves exchange of staff and students, graduate student placement, visiting professors, research and publication



Indonesia's Universitas Teknologi Yogyakarta (UTY) called on UMP on April 12, 2012, harbouring hopes of fostering ties in the academic and research areas.

UTY, led by its Rector Bambang Hardadi, consisted of Dr Tri Bunarsih, representing the Academic Rector, Faculty of Information and Technology Dean, Dr. Bambang Moertono and academic lecturer, Kristiantyo PW Semmakl.

The delegation were warmly received by UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim and its management – Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Centre for Graduate Studies Dean, Professor Datin Dr. Nasly Mohamed Ali, Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (PBMSK) Dean,

Professor Dr Abdul Jalil Borham and International Office Director, Associate Professor, Dr Ainol Haryati Ibrahim.

Also present were Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering senior lecturer, Dr. Rohani Abu Bakar and PBMSK senior lecturer, Dr. Norrihan Sulan.

In his speech, Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said, UMP was proud to have the Indonesian delegation also who visited the Gambang and Kuala Pahang campuses.

"UMP and UTY will establish cooperations in academic that involves exchange of staff and students, graduate student placement, visiting professors, research and publication," he said.

He added that the discussion also touched on the possibility of having collaborations in civil engineering, industrial technology,

mechanical, computer system and information technology.

The two universities planned to organise a Mandarin language programme with the PBMSK and Mandarin Language and Cultural Centre (MLCC).

It was an initiative to help undergraduates improve their command in Mandarin, part of the efforts to cater to the needs of the job market, be it national or international.

Bambang Hardadi said UTY had more than 7,000 students and it hoped to create and expand an innovative education programme that would turn the university into an outstanding institute of higher learning by 2021.

The cooperation with UMP was expected to help realise UTY aspiration to have 50 percent of its lecturers armed with PhDs.

SCUN DELEGATION PAID A COURTESY CALL TO UMP

The cooperation provides continuity in cultural-oriented programmes involving UMP undergraduates and placements of two academic staff in SCUN



By: NOR ASIKIN SULAIMAN

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) received a courtesy call by South Central University for Nationalities (SCUN), Wuhan on July 10, 2012. SCUN is UMP's strategic alliance partner for the past three years.

The delegation, led by SCUN President, Professor Lei Zhao Hei, included Professor Cheng Yan Fu

from the Electrical Engineering Department, Professor Xiong Hairong from Bio-Chemistry Engineering Department, Professor Wang Xingqing from Teaching and Learning Affairs Department and Sun Xiao Li, who is SCUN International Office Programme Coordinator.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the cordial relationship enjoyed by both the universities had benefits



and added values especially in the visiting professor programme, placements of academic staff, sabbatical, post-doctoral and student exchange programmes.

"The cooperation provides continuity in cultural-oriented programmes involving UMP undergraduates and placements of two academic staff in SCUN," he said when welcoming the delegates on July 10, 2012.

Also present was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz.

Dato' Dr. Daing hoped that the affiliation between the two universities could be taken to the next level through more knowledge and expertise sharing activities, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) two years ago.

The MoU involved matters in academic and research.

The delegation also visited the laboratory facilities in UMP – the UMP centralised laboratory and chemical engineering laboratory.

UMP AND INDONESIA'S POLYTECHNICS LP31 FORGED STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s ICT Business Centre signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) with three Polytechnic LP 31s and a high school from Indonesia, marking another milestone in the close relationships enjoyed both by Malaysia and its neighbor country, Indonesia.

The MoUs involved Polytechnic LP 3I Jakarta, Polytechnic LP 3I Bandung, Polytechnic LP 3I Medan and STMIK Bina Sarana Global, paving the way for sharing of expertise in information technology.

The MoUs were signed at the Chancellery's banquet hall on June 18, 2012.

The collaborations were also expected to extend the networking to other Polytechnics LP 31 in Indonesia.

UMP was represented by its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim while Polytechnic LP 3I Jakarta by its director Drs Jaenuddin Achmad, Polytechnic LP 3I Bandung – its director Ir Adriza, Polytechnic LP 3I Medan – its director Akhwanul Akhmad and STMIK Bina Sarana Global, by its chief Dedi Royadi.

Also present were UMP's ICT Business Centre Director, Associate Professor Dr. Wan Maseri Wan Mohd, LP 3I Group programme director Rony Setiawan and UMP's Industrial And Community Networking Division Officer, Professor Dr Zulkefli Yaacob.

Dr. Daing said the intra-university cooperation was important in the context of positioning UMP in the regional and international arena.

"In the context of implementing UMP Strategic Plan (2011-2015), an international link such as this will allow UMP to explore new opportunities in various fields by

In the context of implementing UMP Strategic Plan (2011-2015), an international link such as this will allow UMP to explore new opportunities in various fields by having a grouping with potential partners



having a grouping with potential partners.

"As such, UMP is thrilled and proud because with the collaboration, we are able to strengthen the international networking by accepting the grouping with Polytechnic 31 Jakarta as our new partner," he said in his speech.

He hoped the MoUs would open the way to a wider collaboration that would be jointly explored in the future, benefitting all parties.

He also said UMP and Polytechnic LP 31 Jakarta would gain benefits through research, training and exchange of staff, undergraduates and academic materials.

In fact, the smart partnership could be extended further if more academic staff and undergraduates

were involved in activities to be planned, in due course, he added.

He also said the cooperation would open more rooms to accommodate the understanding and potential that could be jointly developed, complementarily.

Drs Jaenuddin said the programme would involve exchange of student placements to do training in UMP and exchange of staff and research.

He was also thrilled to see facilities in UMP were equipped with sophisticated technology, noting the extensive ICT product development.

He added that the ties forged were expected to help realise the Indonesian polytechnics' aims to produce a professional workforce, accepted by the labour market.

UMP PLAYED HOST TO AFFIN BANK'S TOP MANAGEMENT



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) played host to Affin Bank and Affin Islamic Bank's top management who came to the campus to see for themselves the progress achieved by the university as well as to hold discussion on the possibility of forming a cooperation.

The 21-member delegation visited UMP on April 20, 2012.

The delegation included Affin Bank Berhad Board of Directors Chairman, Jeneral (R) Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ismail Haji Omar, a Board of Directors member, Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman who is also a member in UMP Board of Directors, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Zulkiflee Abbas Abdul Hamid and Affin Islamic Bank Berhad Chief Executive Officer, Kamarul Ariffin Mohd Jamil.

The delegation was received by UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim and its top management, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr

Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, Treasurer Zainuddin Othman, Registrar Haji Mustafa Ibrahim and Dean of Faculty of Technology, Associate Professor Dr Abdullah Ibrahim.

Dato' Daing Nasir said it was a very significant visit for UMP and among the issues discussed was the possibility of working together especially in academic, research and development in marine engineering and biotechnology with subsidiaries of Affin Bank.

"Affin Bank also discussed about the facilities and corporate loan packages for staff that can be beneficial through this cooperation," he said.

Dato' Daing hoped that more programmes and cooperations including corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities could be organised through the Industry and Community Networking Division that was established recently by the university.

Affin Bank also discussed about the facilities and corporate loan packages for staff that can be beneficial through this cooperation





UMP STRENGTHENS BILATERAL TIES WITH UOS

By: ENGR. SHARIZA MAT ARIS

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Centre of Earth Resources and Research Management (CERRM) organised a research trip to University of Seoul (UoS), South Korea on April 20, 2012.

The visit was in line with UMP's vision in becoming a world-class technology university.

Led by CERRM Director, Dr. Wan Mohd Faizal Wan Ishak, the trip was made possible following a collaboration established between UoS and UMP during a seminar on river health management in Kuala Lumpur recently.

Delegate members included officers from the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID).

They received warm reception from UoS president Professor Dr. Kun Lee.

Dr. Wan Faizal said CERRM, which was one of the excellent centres in UMP, was responsible in collectively developing research and building up consultation between the university and industries.

"There were several important elements agreed that involved collaboration in education such as student and staff exchange programme, joint research works as

well as twinning programme.

"The understanding aspect that was evident will pave the way for valuable outcomes based on the bilateral ties that existed between the two universities," he said.

Dr. Wan Faizal said for a start, CERRM would focus on environmental technology field relating to online river water quality monitoring research project led by Professor Kim Hyunook from Environment Engineering Department, UoS.

The delegation also visited LOC Station in Paldang Dam that used a tank, built underground, to store sewage water from a livestock farm.

Dr. Wan said tools used to measure the sewage water like the ones used in the station would be brought back to UMP and a series of related studies would be carried out.

He added that the studies were related to the joint research works between the two universities.

Dr. Wan Faizal also hoped that the visit to IPO Weir and Yeosu Weir, which were two of the four major South Korea river projects, would be used as a benchmark for future research projects on river rehabilitation in Malaysia.



There were several important elements agreed that involved collaboration in education such as student and staff exchange programme, joint research works as well as twinning programme



UMP TIES UP STRATEGIC COLLABORATION WITH ELEKTRISOLA, INFINEON

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Elektrisola (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. to foster a strategic collaboration in the fields of academic and research.

The German-based Elektrisola Group is a worldwide leading producer of fine and ultrafine enameled copper wire on September 5, 2012.

Through the MoU, undergraduates who are enrolled in the dual-degree programme – jointly offered by UMP and Hochschule Karlsruhe (HsKA) of Germany, in the fields of Mechatronic and Automotive Engineering – will, in the future, undergo a six to eight months of industrial training at Elektrisola either in Malaysia or Germany.

Since the dual-degree programme was introduced in 2010, UMP said the university has seen 39 undergraduates enrolled to study Mechatronic Engineering and recently, another 35 new students registered for such programme, of which 20 are undertaking Automotive Engineering, offered for the first time this year.

Addressing the guests at the signing ceremony held at JW Marriott Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the strategic collaboration was important to internationalize the university regionally and globally.

"As we implement our 2011-2015 Strategic Planning, such international cooperation with renowned partners like Elektrisola will assist us to explore new opportunities in a variety of fields," said Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir.

"With this MoU, UMP has charted a track to embark on research, staff training and human capital development for a meaningful intellectual collaboration," said the Vice-Chancellor, highlighting that UMP has also received a Letter of Intent (LoI) from Infineon Technologies Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. to initiate a similar collaboration.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Mohd Nasir and his Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Engr. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz signed the MoU on behalf of UMP while Elektrisola was represented by its Managing Director, Thilo J.



With this MoU, UMP has charted a track to embark on research, staff training and human capital development for a meaningful intellectual collaboration

Westerhausen – in the presence of German Ambassador to Malaysia, Dr. Gunter Georg Gruber, and Director of University Industry's Relation, Ministry of Higher Education, Meanwhile, the LoI saw President and Managing Director of Infineon Technologies Malaysia, Dr. Matthias Ludwig, signing the agreement.

Also present to witness the event were Senior Director of Human Resources from Infineon Technologies Malaysia, Carolyn Tan; Director of the German Academic & Career Centre (GACC), Brian Trenaman; Dean of Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Professor Dr. Zahari Taha; Dean of Faculty of Technology, Associate Professor Dr. Abdullah Ibrahim and Director of Automotive Excellence Centre (AEC), Dr. Abdul Adam Abdullah.



UMPTO MANAGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SMART PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION PROGRAMME

The collaboration between JKPP, UMP and industry, who are strategic partners in this group effort, will develop the networking when executing employability programmes under the ministry



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) became the first university appointed by Higher Education Ministry's Department of Community College Studies (JPCK) to manage a smart partnership programme involving community colleges and automotive companies in a move to produce skilled workers who would contribute to the development of the country's economy in automotive.

The programme, placed under the Centre of Continuing Education and Professional Development (CENFED), will involve students trained by UMP based on the needs of the industry and eventually, employed as skilled and knowledgeable workers

(k-Workers).

The collaboration between JKPP, UMP and industry, who are strategic partners in this group effort, will develop the networking when executing employability programmes under the ministry.

The ministry's secretary general Datuk Ab Rahim Md Noor said such partnership was important to reinforce the role of community college as a leader in generating a knowledgeable and skilled society who also connected with the Government.

"The programme will reinforce the role of community college as the catalyst in producing skilled, knowledgeable and decent workers who meet the industry's demands," he said during a ceremony held at Equatorial Hotel in Bangi on August 1, 2012.

The ceremony involved the exchange of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), handing over of employment offer letters and breaking of fast with representatives

of related industries.

Datuk Ab Rahim said various initiatives were also carried out including introducing modular-type courses that were conducted in a shorter duration.

He added that in enriching the contributions by college community to the local people, its role must be strengthened by having knowledge transfer programmes put in place in the colleges and public institutes of higher learning.

The programme could be entrepreneurial, aquaculture or design activities, or other equally enterprising ones, he said.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said as a technical university, UMP should assist the Government in mainstreaming and extending technical education.

He added that the synergy existed between UMP and JKPP could transform unskilled workers to semi-skilled or skilled workforce, in a very competitive manner.

This strategic initiative could also allow TEVT graduates to pursue their studies in UMP, he said.

"It will benefit more than 400 college community students that are taking marketability programmes.

"College community graduates (Directly Employed) will go through three initiatives - Automotive Junior Technician Programme, Skill Professional Enrichment Development Programme (SPEDP) and UMP Youth Certified Technician Programme (Vehicle - Mechanical and Electrical Technical) Phase One and Two," he said.

He noted that the graduates had been offered to work in various automotive industries including vehicle distribution companies such as Toyota, Mazda, Suzuki, Chevrolet, Mitsubishi, Perodua, Hyundai and Honda.

On the exchange of MoUs, it involved UMP and 24 international accreditation agencies and companies dealing in food and services, spa and beauty, photography, information technology, tourism and hospitality.

Ten Automotive Scan Tools were also presented to JKPP to be used in selected community colleges.

UMP WEBSITE OBTAINED 5 STAR RATING



5 Star

Awarding of the rating was to ensure that government agencies' websites were always updated when providing informative and effective online information to customers

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s official website was given a five-star rating and earned a third spot under the category for public institutes of higher learning in Malaysia.

The recognition awarded following an annual assessment

carried out by Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC) that involved meeting the criteria stipulated in the Malaysian Government Portal and Website Assessment (MGPWA) 2011 and Higher Education Ministry.

UMP scored 92 and it shared

the third place with Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) which had the same points while Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) was placed top with 98. Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) was number two with a score of 95.

Awarding of the rating was to ensure that government agencies' websites were always updated when providing informative and effective online information to customers.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the assessment was a benchmark for its website in providing effective and the best online information as well as efficient public service delivery system.

Higher Education Minister, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin presented the award to Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim in conjunction with the former's new year speech organised by the ministry at Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC) on January 26, 2012.



It was also icing on the cake when UMP was presented with a special award following the success of the research products demonstrated by its final-year undergraduates

oil effluent by using UAMAS as compared to the conventional method of the pond system or open pond system by palm oil mills.

The next gold medal was won by Wong Ying Yin with a project titled, 'Smart Online Electrical Billing Management System using GSM,' a system that provided access to online electrical data using GSM without the need for staff to physically carry out a check of collecting data from house to house.

The work also received a special award from the Asia Invention Creativity Association.

Another participant, Norazura Abdul Halim, took home a silver medal and another special medal for her research on 'Detection and Summation of Pus Cells for Sputum Quality Testing', which introduced image processing to determine a more accurate result on pus cell test to identify lung-related diseases.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin said UMP was so proud of their achievements attained at the international level.

"UMP sets a target of between five to 10 projects to be competed at the international level this year in a move to enhance the culture of being innovative and creative among final-year undergraduates," he said when meeting the winners recently.

He added that other than their ventures in research works, UMP undergraduates were also actively involved in other competitions such as the Perodua Eco-Challenge.

UMP WON GOLD MEDALS AND SPECIAL AWARDS IN EUROINVENT 2012



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) did very well at an international competition

when four of its undergraduates garnered three gold medals and a silver medal as well as grabbing home all the special awards in the European Exhibition of Creativity and Innovation 2012 (EUROINVENT) in Romania on May 12, 2012.

The competition attracted 280 research products from more than 20 countries.

It was also icing on the cake when UMP was presented with a special award following the success of the research products demonstrated by its final-year undergraduates.

The undergraduates were Muhammad Iqram Zulkifli of the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Natural Resource Faculty (FKASA), Lee Hua Chyn of the Chemical Engineering and Natural Resource

Faculty (FKKSA), Wong Ying Yin of the Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKKP) and Norazura Abdul Halim of the Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (FKEE).

The first gold medal was won by Muhammad Iqram based on his project titled, 'Integrated Palm Oil Ash (I-POA) As Filter Media: Treatment for Industrial Wastewater'.

Muhammad Iqram created a filter from palm oil ash to treat waste from palm oil factories and for this effort, he also took home a special award, Korean Invention Association Award as well as named as Croatia Special Award recipient.

The second gold medal went to Lee Hua Chyn for the project - 'Development of Ultrasonic Assisted Membrane Anaerobic System (UAMAS) for Palm Oil Mill Effluent (POME) Treatment.'

Lee also received a special award from the Asia Invention Creativity Association for the work conducted with Yap Wai Mun and Chew Bee Tin that treated palm

RESEARCHERS MADE THEIR MARKS AT INPEX, US



INPEX was the biggest exposition held in the US organised by Invent Help that showcased a variety of inventions, new products and innovations from inventors, entrepreneurs and industry representatives worldwide

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) made its mark at the international scene when four gold medals were won in the Invention and New Product Exposition (INPEX 2012) held at Monroeville Convention Center, in Pittsburgh, US, on June 15, 2012.

Two gold medals were won by Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) team led by Dr. Arun Gupta who created anti-aging cream from chicken feathers. The team won the medals under chemical and personal treatment product categories.

Others in the team involved in the research titled, *Formulation of Anti Aging Cream With UV*

Protection From Chicken Feathers, were Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus and Siti Nur Khairulnisa.

According to Dr. Arun, the keratin protein extracted from the feathers contained very high amino acid sequence that could help regenerate growth of new skin cell. "It can boost growth of new collagen and elasticity, resulting in gradual reduction of wrinkles.

"Most of the anti-aging creams from other countries were made from sheep wool as the livestock production was much higher there.

"In Malaysia, poultry production is higher which makes it easier to get while the price is far cheaper," he added.

He also said a series of tests were conducted and the findings showed that the cream produced was safe for use, free of harmful materials with no side effect.

UMP also won a gold medal through a research carried out by Dr. Jolius Gimbun from FKKSA, titled *Chemically Treated Limestone Based Catalyst (LBC) for Biodiesel Production*, conducted together with Chitra Charan Suri, Shahid Ali Wafa Muhammad and Dr. Said Nuridin.

Civil Engineering and Natural Resource Faculty (FKASA) researcher Associate Professor Dr Zularisam Abdul Wahid took home the fourth gold medal with his research, *UMP CaO granules: POME for Energy*.

Also involved in the work was another researcher, Abdul Syukor Abd Razak.

INPEX was the biggest exposition held in the US organised by Invent Help that showcased a variety of inventions, new products and innovations from inventors, entrepreneurs and industry representatives worldwide.



Realising the importance of rivers, the government, through its agencies such as DID Malaysia, has conducted conservation efforts and cleanliness campaigns

UMP, DID SOUGHT KOREAN EXPERTISE ON RIVER MANAGEMENT

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Centre of Earth Resources & Research Management (CERRM) and Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) jointly organised a seminar on managing river health at Seri Pacific Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on March 1, 2012.

The seminar, held for the first time, was to ensure sustainability of rivers in the country and for the natural resources be well-managed.

It served as a platform where experiences of foreign researchers

especially from University of Seoul in managing rivers in Korea could be shared and adapted in Malaysia.

Among the topics discussed were the effectiveness of Water Quality Monitoring Policy and their success in dealing with a water project in Cheongaechun, South Korea.

Rivers and humans have a dynamic relationship with rivers having an impact on humans and, conversely, the impact of humans on rivers.

History had shown that human

settlements started in river valleys as the place would facilitate their daily activities.

It was a source for water and food for humans as well as a transportation means and this function has not changed.

In fact, the role of rivers has increased when it is also a source of power to generate hydro electric.

According to DID director general Dato' Ir. Haji Ahmad Husaini Sulaiman, the government allocated billions of ringgit to protect and conserve rivers.



Rivers and humans have a dynamic relationship with rivers having an impact on humans and, conversely, the impact of humans on rivers.

"However, some of the efforts are seen as only able to hold on for a certain period of time. Pollution still persists, erosion continues and other unending activities that go on impacting the river health.

"Realising the importance of rivers, the government, through its agencies such as DID Malaysia, has conducted conservation efforts and cleanliness campaigns.

"The 1State 1River programme launched in 2004 was about having clean, healthy and vibrant rivers with 2B class water quality achieved by 2015.

"It is also about turning rivers and its surroundings as a natural recreational area, preserving them as river assets.

"The programme is was a joint agreement with the state governments with a polluted river selected to be rehabilitated," he said

when officially opened the seminar.

He added that in the National Key Economy Area (NKEA) Greater KL, which was under the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) and River of Life (ROL) programme carried out in Sungai Klang, the river was expected to be clean, vibrant and habitable with 2B class status achieved.

He said the concept was almost similar to the one implemented in Sungai Melaka, under Phase 2 of the Cleaning and Beautification Project of Sungai Melaka that not only focused on improving the water quality but also making it an alternative public transportation for tourist attraction.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim said CERRM was one of the university's Centres of Excellence (CoEs) that provided expertise, skill and

technology relating to natural resources and the impacts to humans.

He added that the seminar concurred well with calls made by the government especially the Higher Education Ministry in strengthening CoEs in universities.

Later, Dato' Ir Haji Ahmad witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between UMP and University of Seoul that paved the way to having collaborations in sharing of expertise, research, visiting professors, exchange of staff and students as well as industrial training.

UMP was represented by Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim and CERRM Director, Dr Wan Faizal Wan Ishak while University of Seoul, by Professor Dr Hyunook Kim and Jindong Gong.

Also present were DID senior officers – Deputy Director General (1) Dato' Ir Nordin Hamdan, Deputy Director General (II), Dato' Ong Siew Heng, Senior Director, Dato' Zainor Rahim Ibrahim dan UMP Adjunct Professor, Dr Ir Nasehir Khan Em Yahaya.



TWO NIU UNDERGRADUATES LEARNED THE MALAY LANGUAGE AT UMP

The participants are taught about the lifestyles and cultures of people in Malaysia and its uniqueness as the people are multi-racial, multi-religion and multi-cultural

Two undergraduates from Northern Illinois University (NIU) in the US - Matthew Ropp, 21, and Derek Koegel, 22, were so proud to be able to speak better Malay after undergoing a six-week Malay Language programme for international students (BMfIS) that focused on authentic communication.

The programme was managed by Modern Language and Human Sciences since May 28, 2012.

According to the centre's dean Professor Dr Abdul Jalil Borham, the programme was the second held after it was introduced last year and it emphasised on authentic elements.

He said the teaching and learning resources were those already commonly used by local people in going about with their daily lives.

"The participants are taught about the lifestyles and cultures of people in Malaysia and its uniqueness



as the people are multi-racial, multi-religion and multi-cultural.

"The participants are also taught about more challenging topics such as the automotive industry, history on local warriors and the formation of Malaysia after British colonisation," he said before presenting certificates to participants who had completed the programme at UMP Chancellery banquet hall in Gambang on July 6, 2012.

He added that the programme gave the opportunity to UMP undergraduates to share ideas and cultures as well as promoting the university, globally.

He hoped that programmes such as this, which was a result of cordial cooperation between UMP and NIU, could be continued in the future.

Mathew described the learning process as fun for him and his friend, Derek, for they had the opportunity to learn about Malay wedding in Penang and visited former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's home in Kedah.

Mathew lived with an adopted family in Felda Lepar and it gave him the opportunity to mix with locals.

He also took part in 'kenduri' activities and celebrations as well as farming activities.

Derek said the experience in meeting and talking with many people had helped towards improving his communication level more effectively.

The team who had developed the programme and searched the materials comprised NIU Professor James T. Collins and three of the centre's academic staff - lecturers Dr Nik Aloesnita Nik Mohd Alwi, Dr Zailin Shah Yusof and language teacher Siti Muslihah Isnain.

They were assisted by five facilitators.

"By having this programme, graduates will have better understanding and find suitable work while future employers are able to make immediate choices on which candidates to be selected based on skills required



UMP-CEC OFFERED 300 JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Universiti Malaysia Pahang's Career and Entrepreneur Carnival (UMP-CEC) organised by Student Affairs and Alumni (Saffad) received encouraging response as some 1,000 visitors thronged the event held at Astaka Hall from May 9-11, 2012.

They were mostly undergraduates and graduates

The carnival was officially opened by UMP board of directors' chairman Dato' Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib.

Also present were UMP Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, Assistant Vice Chancellor (Saffad) Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainudin, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus and Assistant Vice Chancellor (Corporate Development

and Quality Management) Associate Professor Zulkafli Hasan.

In his speech, Dato' Helmi said students would discover several positive elements by getting involved in programmes such as this and in some ways, would help mould them to be marketable workers.

"By having this programme, graduates will have better understanding and find suitable work while future employers are able to make immediate choices on which candidates to be selected based on skills required.

"Students need to be ready and prepared to go for interviews especially in terms of image and ability to communicate," he added.

He also advised students to be courageous enough to accept the challenge of a wide-ranging career but the most important thing was for them to always be proactive and

creative in their work practice.

Professor Dr. Yuserrie said the carnival was an annual affair held to give exposure to students on how to conduct themselves during interviews as well as present opportunities on jobs available in the industries.

"It is also to supply new inputs on industrial information to participants so they can make plans that will meet the industries' needs," he said.

He described the carnival as the best platform for students to prove that they were ready to face the working world.

The three-day carnival offered 300 job opportunities involving more than 40 companies taking part including Zenith Hotel, Purnama Bersatu, Malaysian Automotive Institute (MAI), Sony EMCS and Might Meteor Advanced Manufacturing.

A second-year undergraduate from Science and Industrial Technology Faculty (FSTI), NurulAshikin Ahmad, 21, said the programme should be held annually so students could make sufficient preparation before stepping into the workforce.

Bigger development fund and more researches and collaborations between companies and public research institutes are among the factors that can help inculcate research and innovation culture in universities



UMP-UTY SHARED GOOD PRACTISES IN RESEARCH AND PATENT FIELDS

In its effort to become a world-class technology university, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) will continue to work on its branding strategy in engineering and technology and walking the talk, the university shared its best research good practices and patents in an international seminar and national symposium, 'Global Competitiveness through Research Supporting Commercial Industry' in Indonesia.

It was organised by University Technology Yogyakarta (UTY), Yogyakarta on June 23, 2012.

UMP's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir

Ibrahim accepted an invitation from UTY to participate in the seminar's plenary session that gathered prominent academicians and experts from Malaysia and Indonesia.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said a university played an important role in producing innovation in research and patent to continue to be competitive at the international scene.

"Bigger development fund and more researches and collaborations between companies and public research institutes are among the factors that can help inculcate research and innovation culture

in universities," he said when presenting a working paper titled, 'Global Competitiveness through Research and Patents: Are We Ready?' at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Yogyakarta.

Dr. Daing Nasir also shared information on patent registration statistics for the year 2009 that listed Malaysia at the 30th placing while Indonesia at the 78th spot and Singapore recorded at the 22th with 594 patents filed.

However, the figures might have changed for the last three years, he added.

He said the university played a role in contributing to innovative



patents and scientific publications for a SCIMAGO study carried out in 2010 showed that scientific publications produced by Indonesia totalled 2,032 only as compared to Malaysia's 14,407.

Thailand registered 9,129 and Singapore, 13,913.

Other panelists included Professor Hasnah Haji Haron from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) with her paper, 'Research Culture in Malaysia' Dr. Yusniza Kamarulzaman from Universiti Malaya (UM) spoke on 'Research Supporting Commercial Industry' and Professor Dato' Ishak Ismail from USM presented a paper on 'Human Resources Development Strategy: Winning Global Competitiveness - The Malaysian Experience'.

Others included professors from Surabaya Technology Institute, Professor Dr. I Nyoman Sutantra, UTY's Professor Dr. Emta W Astami, Toyota Astra Motor Manager Tarsimin and Professor Dr. Lincoln Arsyad as the moderator.

Dato' Dr. Daing also gave away scholarships to two UTY undergraduates who would pursue their doctorates in computer in UMP this September.

Also present were Centre for Graduate Studies Dean, Professor Datin Dr. Nasly Mohamed Ali, Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources Dean, Professor Engr Dr. Ideris Zakaria and Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering dean Professor Dr. Jasni Mohamad Zain.



research products in a bid to boost the country's research and development activities.

UTY Rector, Bambang Hartadi said the seminar also discussed on research findings and the importance of patents in university and industry, human resource development and the significance of the research world in facing global challenges and competition especially in fields

relating to information technology, industrial engineering, construction, civil engineering and economy.

He added that a university must be responsive to the needs of public and industries as well as getting its products patented and commercialised.

He suggested that researchers in Indonesia to continue with their efforts in increasing the number of

LEARNING MANDARIN THE FUN WAY USING SMART PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME



By: CHONG AH KOW

Thirty Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates and 30 pupils from Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina (SJKC) Gambang took part in a fun-filled one-day programme organised by the Mandarin Language and Culture Centre (MLCC) and Foreign Languages Department of Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (CMLHS).

The objective of the event - Smart Partnership Programme: Enhancing Mandarin Communication Skills through Supportive Learning Strategies - was to help enhance the participants' communication skill in the language.

It was held on April 28, 2012.

Other than helping to improve the participants' language skills, the programme also aimed to foster better ties between UMP and other educational institutions in the area as well as help to motivate the

pupils to excel in their studies.

These values were instilled and brought about in a favorable setting where participants were able to practice the language.

The participants really enjoyed themselves throughout the day and took part in a variety of activities that involved a lot of using Mandarin to communicate with each other.

The programme was officially opened by MLCC Coordinator Chong Ah Kow, representing CMLHS Dean, Professor Abd Jalil Borham.



The objective of the event - Smart Partnership Programme: Enhancing Mandarin Communication Skills through Supportive Learning Strategies - was to help enhance the participants' communication skill in the language

Also present were SJKC Gambang headmaster Lim Jou Chok and four teachers.

Lim commended the programme saying the activities would really inspire the pupils to perform better in their studies and pursue higher education in the university.

Teachers Liang Zhen Zhen and Lin Chun Mei lauded the programme, saying the activities were carried out in a very creative manner and very interesting.

They said it was an eye opener for them as well as they were exposed to other means of teaching the language.

CMLHS Mandarin language teacher Yong Ying Mei, who mooted the idea to hold the programme, said school teachers - Liu Xu, Zhang Cuicui and Yuan Jie, had been helpful in helping to ensure that the activities were run smoothly especially for non-Mandarin speaking participants.

Yong said Mandarin was difficult

to some of these participants but it did not seem to deter them from enjoying themselves while learning the language.

The program started in the morning with an ice-breaking activity, followed by games such as 'Ni Shuo Wo Xie' (I write what you say)', 'Bu Wen Bu Xiang Shi' (To ask to know each other) and 'Ni Hua Wo Cai' (Guess my drawing).

In the afternoon, the participants utilised the CMLHS multimedia laboratory to experience hands-on learning process using computer-assisted learning tools.

Participants Diana Anak Lingging and Aidaiyu Ahmad said they truly liked the activities held together with the pupils.

They also hoped that they would be able to take part in similar events in the future.

The programme was officially closed by CMLHS Head of Foreign Languages, Mohd Iszuani Hassan.

