

PEKAN REVIEW

Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community



SULTAN PAHANG OFFICIALLY OPENS 'HERITAGE TRAIL' IN UMP



DATO' SRI ADNAN
CONFERRED HONORARY
DOCTORATE IN TECHNOLOGY
MANAGEMENT



UNDERGRADUATES
URGED TO SHARPEN
SOFT SKILLS, RISE TO
EXCELLENCE

ISSN 2180-3099



9 772180 309006

Innovative Engineering

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Pekan Review *carves its niche*

All praises extend to the Almighty – the 3rd issue of *Pekan Review* finally made it to print. It was truly a daunting task for the Editorial Board when we first explored the skeletal make-up of *Pekan Review*, what identity would it take as the issues evolve. Today, with the unwavering support and close cooperation from all contributing parties, the 3rd issue meets the reading audience.

In this issue, *Pekan Review* places on record the proud moments when UMP staff pooled together, in body and spirit, to commence the “Jejak Warisan” (Trail of Heritage) programme, in conjunction with the royal birthday celebration of the Sultan of Pahang. It was a historical milestone, and ever so meaningful for the people of Pahang, to bear witness to the launching of preservation programme of stately cultural heritage for future generations to appreciate.

Our heartiest congratulations to the Menteri Besar of Pahang, Dato’ Sri Adnan Yaakob, on being conferred the honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Technology Management – at UMP’s 5th Convocation ceremony – for his incessant efforts to bring developments to the State.

We also take our hats off to UMP researchers, who did the university proud when they clinched gold, silver and bronze medals at the International Trade Fair Ideas-Invention-New Products (IENA 2010) in Nuremberg, German, and at the Bio Malaysia 2010 Exhibition.

As I pen off, the editorial team hopes *Pekan Review* will continue its internationalization momentum, setting the platform to catapult UMP’s accreditation in the global academia.

Happy Reading!

Abd Rahman Haji Safie



Vice-Chancellor's Voice

UMP: HIGHER EDUCATION HUB OF EXCELLENCE

Greetings to all discerning readers,

2010 has left us with many good memories and especially, proud moments of historic transformation. Today, 2011 beckons us with many more challenges and hurdles, a notable year in which we have to engage proactively to stamp our distinctive mark in the academia.

With only nine candles to our birthday cake, UMP can already stand tall, among her long established peers, with her trademark accomplishments at both the national and international levels.

The setting up of the German Academic & Career Centre has drawn exceptional interest from Hochschule Karlsruhe Und Wirtschaft (HsKA) to collaborate and coordinate engineering academic activities, laying down the groundwork for UMP students to secure world renowned German technological know-how, leading to a double degree conferment.

Simultaneously, the cooperation sealed between UMP and China's University of Hebei has led to the founding of the Mandarin Language & Culture Centre. This Centre is a testament of our commitment to transform UMP students into a multilingual graduates, who not only command the national language and English, but as well as Mandarin, to facilitate their industrial training in China, and complement domestic and international employment market demands.

I strongly believe, as we persist in executing the transformation efforts initiated last year, 2011 will eventually present us with the opportune prospect of carving our niche as the technological university of choice, locally and globally.

With such a goal in mind, the university's 2011-2015 Strategic Planning has been set in motion – in line with the 10th Malaysia Plan – to undertake the Government's call for institutions of higher learning to produce high quality and skillful human capital. In the long run, this undertaking will help UMP realize her vision of becoming a higher education hub of excellence,

As I pen off, a gentle reminder seems befitting. To ensure sustainable excellence, the university requires not only creative transformation, mindset migration and continuous cohesion, but uppermost, *good faith*, in carrying out whatever task assigned to us, which ultimately becomes the backbone of future accomplishments.

My parting advice, the success of UMP depends largely on our concerted *teamwork* to bring our beloved university into a future of unbridled excellence.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim



SULTAN PAHANG

OFFICIALLY OPENS 'HERITAGE TRAIL' IN UMP

His Highness Sultan Pahang said the nation's rich history and heritage must be held on diligently and appreciated in a move to steer Malaysia towards excellence as illustrated in Vision 2020.

Some 4,000 people comprising intellectuals, undergraduates, Anak Pahang Undergraduates Council Secretariat (SeMAMPAN), government agencies' representatives and UMP staff turned up at the official opening of Pahang Heritage Trail organised by Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), in collaboration with Former State Assemblymen Council (MUBARAK) and Pahang government.

The programme's objective was to learn from the past and moving ahead towards excellence. It was held in conjunction with His Highness Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Pahang's 80th birthday celebration.

His Highness Sultan Pahang attended the event held on September 25, 2010 at UMP Sports Complex. Also present were Menteri Besar Pahang, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob, State Executive Councillor member and the programme's chairman Yang Berhormat Dato' Haji Mohd. Sharkar Haji Shamsuddin, MUBARAK acting president Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman and Higher Education Deputy Minister Yang Berhormat Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah.

In his speech, His Highness Sultan Pahang said the nation's rich history and heritage must be held on diligently and appreciated in a move to steer Malaysia towards excellence



as illustrated in Vision 2020.

His Highness also expressed his concern if efforts towards achieving the goal were hampered due to the present generation's tendency to perceive the importance of history as nonessential.

UMP Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the programme kicked off with a forum where prominent figures shared their knowledge and idea about the process of nation building, history of royal families, Pahang rulers and administrators and preparations to position the state in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)'s World Heritage Map list.

He added that UMP, with its expertise, was always committed in implementing initiatives that would add values to efforts taken in preserving Pahang's history and heritage.

Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman also said MUBARAK always worked closely together with Government agencies, corporate bodies, public universities and non-governmental organizations to inculcate patriotism and love for the country among the people.

"As an organization that draws together political leaders who have done good deeds to the country, we are in the midst of our own campaign to instill patriotism

among the younger generation so they will appreciate the joys of independence.

"We plan to carry out more of these programmes in institutions of higher learning and schools to inspire youngsters to think about history.

"Among the programmes are Faces of Malaysia's 100 Heroes and art competition titled 'My Hero' at schools in the Federal Territory," he added.

He also said MUBARAK would hold exhibitions titled, 'Ruler and the People Are Inseparable' which would showcase news reports and historical writings, artifacts, paintings and Pahang's aristocrats.



Sultan Ahmad Shah also graciously consented to cutting yellow glutinous rice (pulut kuning) in conjunction with his 80th birthday anniversary.

5,000
STAF AND STUDENTS
ATTENDED AIDIL FITRI
CELEBRATION



Some 5,000 UMP staff and students attended the Aidil Fitri celebration graced by His Highness Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin al-Muadzam Shah and Her Highness Sultanah of Pahang, Sultanah Hajah Kalsom.

It was held on September 25, 2010 at UMP Gambang campus.

Also present were Menteri Besar of Pahang Dato' Sri Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob, Higher Education Deputy Minister Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, State Information, Science, Technology and Innovation

Committee Chairman Dato' Mohd Sharkar Shamsuddin, Malaysia Council of Former State Representatives (Mubarak) Acting President Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman and UMP Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim.

Sultan Ahmad Shah also graciously consented to cutting yellow glutinous rice (pulut kuning) in conjunction with his 80th birthday anniversary.

The guests were entertained to performances staged from students and artists from UMP's Department of Culture and Arts.

It was a lively celebration as 18 booths were set up with each showcasing local delicacies and dishes. The booths were courtesy of Pusat Tanggungjawab (PTJ). On the list of menu included 'nasi minyak', 'soup', 'cendol', 'ketupat', 'lemang',

'rendang', 'laksa' and a variety of soup and drinks.

The organiser also held a contest for the most creative booth which was won by Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources with its theme on heritage and sultanate. The Registry Department took home the second place while the Finance Department, in third place.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir, in his speech, said the uniqueness in the celebration was translated through the variety of food prepared and dished out to the guests.

"For the most creative booth competition, winners were judged based on the theme, creativity and cleanliness.

"I want to congratulate the entire staff of UMP as they had worked hard to prepare for the occasion," he said.



DATO' SRI ADNAN

CONFERRED HONORARY DOCTORATE IN TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

Menteri Besar of Pahang, Dato' Sri Adnan Yaakob, received an honorary doctorate degree in Technology Management, from the Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), Crown Prince Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, at the university's 5th Convocation ceremony, held at UMP Sports Complex in early October.

According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, the honorary conferment was in acknowledgment of the relentless efforts Dato' Sri Adnan put in to make Pahang an

According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim, the honorary conferment was in acknowledgment of the relentless efforts Dato' Sri Adnan put in to make Pahang an affluent and prosperous state.

Engineering, Bahrn Mohd Shakir, and Lim Jo Ann, both 23.

The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor Awards went to Baccalaureates in Civil Engineering, Ng Kel-Wynn and Rozainah Ibrahim, both 24, respectively.

Meanwhile, Baccalaureates in Mechanical Engineering, Chan See Ling, 21, and Kelvin Koh, 24, took home the university's Gold Award.

Farah Arina Tamin, 24, from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources was conferred the Pahang Foundation Award, while Nur Afini Abdul Rahman, also 24, who graduated with a Bachelor's in Computer Science (Software Engineering), was chosen to receive the HeiTech Padu Excellence Award.

Another Industry Award, from BASF Petronas Chemicals Sdn Bhd, went to Rajaletchumy Veloo Kutty, 24, from the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (Biotechnology).

This year's convocation saw the introduction of three new awards – namely, Ir Kee Book Hee Excellence Award (Chew Chai Siah, 24, from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources); Sapura Industrial Bhd. Award (Nur Farah Bazilah Wakhi Anuar, 23, from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (Automotive Engineering)); and the Srikandi Matahari Award (Syarifah Nur Atiqah Syed Ahmad, 24, from the Faculty of Civil & Earth Resources Engineering), contributed by UMP's Women Association (Matahari).

Another first highlighted during the convocation ceremony

was the successful collaboration between UMP's Centre for Continuing Education & Professional Development (CENFED) and HICOM Automotive Manufacturers (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., leading to 24 graduates receiving their Executive Diploma in Industry Technology Management from the university's Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering & Technology Management.

Also taking the spotlight was a disabled graduand, Siti Hawa Apani, 21, who suffered from Spinal Muscular Atrophy since childhood, but with high-spirit, pulled through to acquire her Diploma in Computer Science.

Prior to the convocation, a one-week carnival saw the staging of a talk on "Traditional Women versus Modern Women", hosted by Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Students Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr Yuserrie Zainuddin, with a panel of speakers made up of Kuala Sentol State Executive Councillor, Dato' Shahaniza Samsuddin; Director of UMP's International Office, Dr Wan Nurlidah Al Qadri; and UMP's Students Council Deputy Head, Nur Hafizah Abdul Razak.

The carnival was officiated by the Chairman of the university's Board of Directors, Dato' Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib.

On the eve of UMP's 5th Convocation, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir launched its alumni's portal, during a dinner organized by its Students Affairs & Alumni Department and attended by over 600 alumni.

affluent and prosperous state.

At the convocation, a total of 1,030 students received their scrolls. Of the number, eight received their Master's, while 834 received their Bachelor's and 196 their Diplomas. And for the first time, after five convocations, UMP witnessed its first doctoral graduand – Mohd Ghani Awang, 54 – who received his Doctor of Philosophy in Technology Management.

The convocation ceremony also laid witness to the conferment of several other honourable awards. The Royal Education Award, in the form of an Excellence Medal, went to two Baccalaureates in Chemical

UMP'S 5th CONVOCATION

1,030 STUDENTS
RECEIVED THEIR
DEGREES AND
DIPLOMAS



Menteri Besar of Pahang, Dato' Sri Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob was awarded the honorary doctorate for technology management from Universiti Malaysia (UMP) Pahang Chancellor, Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah in conjunction with its 5th Convocation at the sports complex hall on October 9, 2010.

UMP Vice - Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the award was in recognition to the efforts taken by the Menteri Besar in turning Pahang into a developed and prosperous state.

During the convocation, a total of 1,030 UMP students received their scrolls.

Eight of them received their masters degree, 834 obtained their bachelor's degrees while 196 earned their diplomas.

UMP also produced its first graduate for doctorate - Mohd. Ghani Awang, 54, who obtained his academic degree in technology management.

Bahrn Mohd Shakir dan Lim Jo Ann, who were graduates of Bachelor in Chemical Engineering were announced as the recipients for the Royal Academic Award - the Excellence Medal (Anugerah Pelajaran Diraja - Pingat Jaya



Cemerlang).

Ng Kel-Wynn and Rozainah Ibrahim, who were graduates of Civil Engineering, were presented with the Chancellor Award and Vice-Chancellor Award, respectively.

The University Gold Award was awarded to Chan See Ling and Koh Kelvin, who were graduates of Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering.

The Pahang Foundation Excellence Award was given to graduate of Bachelor in Civil Engineering, Farah Arina Tamin.

Nur Afini Abdul Rahman, a graduate of Bachelor in Computer Science (Computer Programming) was picked to receive the industrial award - Heitech Padu Excellence

Award while Rajaletchumy d/o Veloo Kutty, a graduate of Bachelor in Chemical Engineering (Biotechnology) was the recipient for industrial award by BASF Petronas Chemicals Sdn. Bhd.

Three new awards were also introduced in the convocation – Ir Kee Book Hee Excellence Award, Sapura Industrial Berhad and Srikandi Matahari Award, courtesy from UMP Women Association (Matahari).

The Ir Kee Book Hee Excellence Award was presented to Chew Chai Siah, a graduate of Bachelor in Civil Engineering.

Two more awards, Sapura Industrial Berhad and Srikandi Matahari award were accepted by Nur Farah Bazilah Wakhi Anuar, a graduate of Bachelor in Mechanical and Automotive Engineering and Syarifah Nur Atiqah Sayed Ahmad, a graduate of Bachelor in Civil Engineering.

It was noted that a programme created between Centre for Continuing Education and Professional Development (CENFED) and HICOM Automotive Manufacturers (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd had successfully churned out its first batch of 24 diploma graduates in industrial technology executive management from the Manufacturing Engineering and

Technology Management Faculty.

The success was also celebrated by physically –impaired student, Siti Hawa Apani, 21, who was afflicted with *Spinal Muscular Atrophy* (SMA) since small. SMA causes progressive muscle degeneration and weakness. Siti Hawa obtained a diploma in Computer Science and scored with flying colours.

UMP Alumni portal was also launched by Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim during a dinner organised by the Student Affairs and Alumni Department in conjunction with the convocation. More than 600 alumni members turned for the event.

Meanwhile, Assistant Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin hosted a talk show on women titled, 'Traditional Women Vs Modern Women'. The panelists were Kuala Sentol assemblywoman, Dato' Shahaniza Samsuddin, UMP's International Office Director, Dr. Wan Nurlidah Al Qadri and Student Representative Council Deputy President, Nur Hafizah Abd. Razak.

It was launched by UMP's Board of Director Chairman, Dato' Mohd. Hilmey Mohd Taib a day before the convocation was held.



A Mother's Unconditional Love



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s 5th Convocation was a joyous and historical moment for its 1,030 graduates. However, it was the most celebrated occasion for Siti Hawa Apendi, 21.

She is physically impaired but she stood tall among her peers upon receiving her scroll during the convocation held on October 9, 2010.

The convocation was graced by UMP's Chancellor His Highness Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Tengku Mahkota Pahang, Tengku Abdullah Al-Haj Ibni Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah.

Siti Hawa has *Spinal Muscular Atrophy* (SMA),

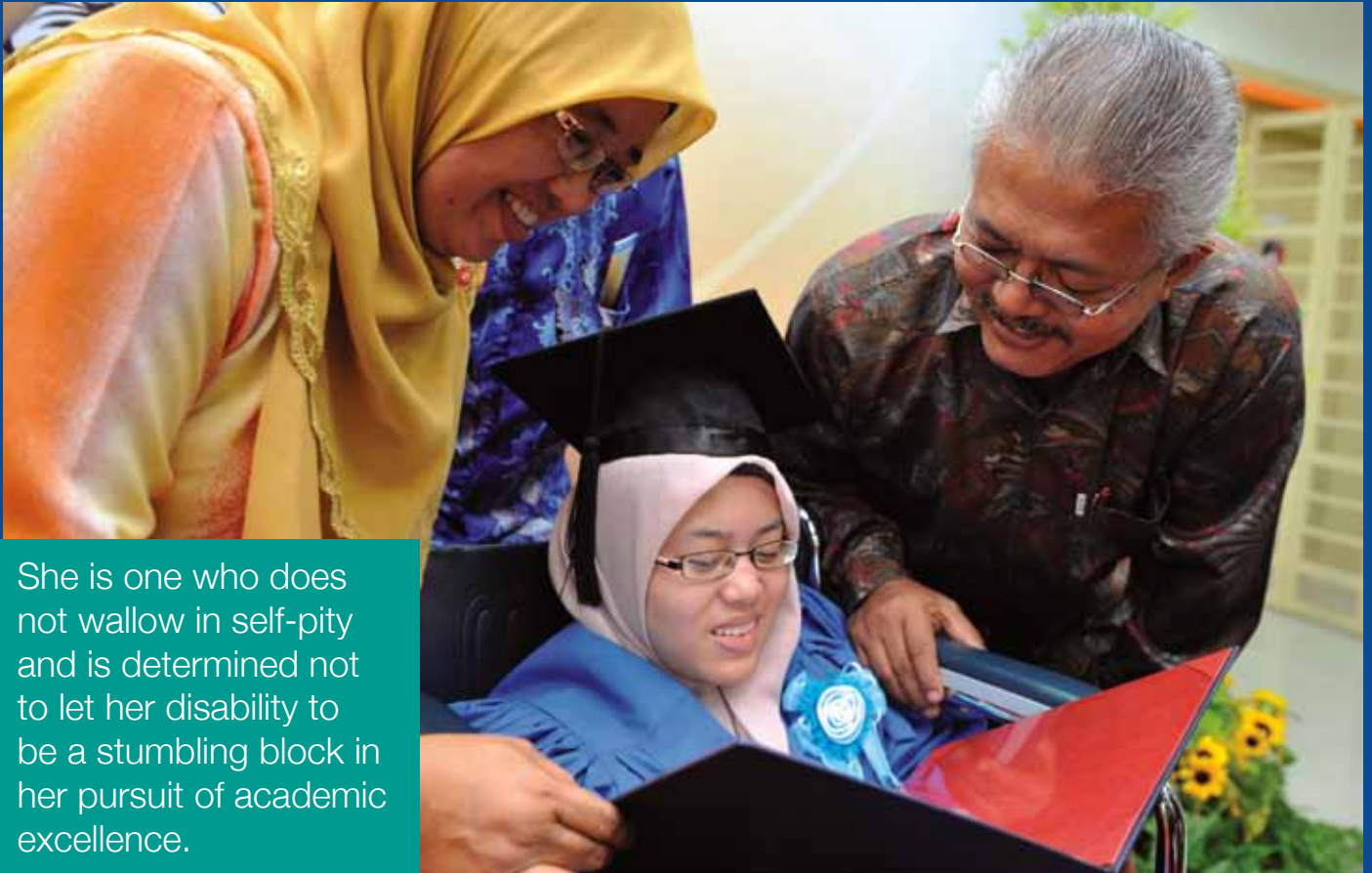
a neuromuscular disease characterised by degeneration of motor neurons, resulting in progressive muscular atrophy (wasting away) and weakness.

She has SMA since small and is unable to move. Due to her condition Siti Hawa has to be fully depended on her mother, Zaidah Tamjis, 47.

However, the plucky young lady was a very competitive student and this was reflected in her being named in the dean's list several times.

Siti Hawa's CGPA for the final semester was 3.79.

She is one who does not wallow in self-pity and is determined not to let her disability to be a stumbling block in her pursuit of academic excellence.



She is one who does not wallow in self-pity and is determined not to let her disability to be a stumbling block in her pursuit of academic excellence.

Siti Hawa moves around the campus in a wheelchair pushed by her mother who also helped change her dress and carry out daily routines in the hostel.

Zaidah sacrificed a lot to see to it that her daughter obtained the best in her studies.

"I do not mind doing all these things for the sake of Siti Hawa's future. To see her achieved

success in life already makes me a happy person.

"Other people may see this as a burden but I am happy to be with her at all times. It was my greatest pleasure to see my daughter whom I have raised from small, made it to the university. She made it, just like any other normal students," Zaidah said.

Siti Hawa described her

mother as a very loving woman, blessed with high level of patience.

"I would not know if other mothers were willing to do what she did. She sacrificed a lot and I am really touched and moved by her unselfishness.

"I will continue my studies for a degree and this is my mother's wish. I will do anything for her as long as she is happy," she said.



UNDERGRADUATES URGED TO SHARPEN SOFT SKILLS, RISE TO EXCELLENCE

The Minister of Higher Education, Dato' Seri Mohamed Nordin,

urges the 40,366 students, who have successfully secured their placements in the local institutions of higher learning (IPTs) nationwide, to rise to excellence and sharpen themselves with the necessary soft skills to evolve into becoming globally competitive graduates.

The Minister said this to an audience of 1,674 students at the official opening of the Undergraduates Orientation Week 2010 (MINDS) held at the Sports Complex of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) on July 4, 2011.

Dato' Seri Mohamed Khalid further stressed that the Ministry of Higher Education is putting more emphasis on the soft skills element as part of the main curriculum to be taught at IPTs.

Components of soft

skills are complementary to hard skills and theoretical learning, which will eventually help mould undergraduates into balanced and holistic individuals.

According to the Minister, each year the Government allocates a tremendous sum of budget for the country's younger generations to obtain tertiary education.

"Various forms of scholarships and education loans are being provided by the National Fund for Tertiary Education (PTPTN).

"To make a point in case, recently, the Ministry announced that the Government has agreed to raise the maximum level of income for parents of students who wish to apply for a full education loan from PTPTN, from RM3,000 to RM4,000," he added.

This, he said, showed that the Government has taken into account the rising cost of living and is disbursing part of its social responsibilities to lighten the financial burdens of parents and students alike.

Meanwhile, UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim said the university offers 2,570 places for students to pursue various programmes at UMP. Of the number, 2,270 students have enrolled for the bachelor's programmes, while the balance 300 for its diploma's.

Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir further highlighted that an orientation week like MINDS is held at the beginning of a new semester to allow students to familiarize themselves, not only with the





infrastructural surroundings, but also to become acquainted with the interactions between fellow students and senior student-facilitators.

"Current tertiary education and on-campus living climate demands great mental agility, and increasingly requires students to be more proactive and competitive," he said.

The new semester saw 29 international enrolments, with students coming from countries like China, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

For the first time, UMP has enrolled 10 new students into its new double degree undergraduate programme in Mechatronics Engineering, with scrolls to be conferred by UMP and German's Hochschule Karlsruhe Und Wirtschaft

Components of soft skills are complementary to hard skills and theoretical learning, which will eventually help mould undergraduates into balanced and holistic individuals.

(HsKA).

"This double degree programme is a testament to the

strategic relation and cooperation established between UMP and HsKA, sealed with a Memorandum of Understanding at the University-Industry Forum held in Kuantan recently," he said.

Present at the MINDS' launching ceremony were a member of UMP's Board of Directors, Khodijah Abdullah; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr Rosli Mohd Yunus; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz; Registrar, Mustafa Ibrahim; Dean of Student Affairs & Alumni Department, Professor Dr Yuserrie Zainudin; Head of UMP Students Council, Mohd Aedlan Nur Ahmad; and his deputy cum MINDS 2010 Director, Nor Hafizah Abdul Razak.

UMP honored for efforts in Biodiversity-Biotechnology Strategic Action Plan



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) received a Certificate of Appreciation from the State Government of Pahang in its efforts to chart out the State's Biodiversity-Biotechnology Strategic Action Plan – which was officially launched by the country's Deputy Prime Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin – at the Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah's Silver Jubilee Hall in Kuantan, Pahang, on August 9, 2010.

The Pahang Biodiversity-Biotechnology Strategic Action Plan outlines the guidelines for public and private active participation in the biotechnology industry, which has been earmarked for the prosperous and welfare development of the

citizens of Pahang.

The certificate was presented by Tan Sri Muhyiddin to the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim. Present to witness the handover and official launch were Pahang Chief Executive, Dato' Sri Adnan Yaakob, and Chairman of the State's Communications, Science, Technology & Innovation Committee, Dato' Mohd Sharkar Shamsudin.

At the same ceremony, UMP was also conferred the BioNexus' Accredited Laboratory status. The accreditation certificate was presented by the Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation, Dato' Iskandar Mizal Mahmood.



“Consequently, UMP will be assisting the small and medium enterprises to conduct product research and development at the university, which in turn, will help our laboratories to be recognized as the best in the East Coast,” exclaimed the Vice-Chancellor.



“The accreditation from Malaysian Biotechnology is an impetus for UMP to provide adequate infrastructure and research facilities for product testing at the university’s laboratories,” said Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir.

“Consequently, UMP will be assisting the small and medium enterprises to conduct product research and development at the university, which in turn, will help our laboratories to be recognized as the best in the East Coast,” exclaimed the Vice-Chancellor.

The event also lay witness to the exchanging of the Strategic Action Plan’s collaboration documents between Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir, on behalf of UMP, and

Dato’ Mohd Sharkar, on behalf of the State.

Also present were UMP’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz; Registrar, Mustafa Ibrahim; Dean of the Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering, Associate Professor Dr Jasni Mohamad Zain; and Dean of the Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology, Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff.

In conjunction with the launching ceremony, a Pahang Biotechnology Declamation competition was held concurrently, and FIST undergraduate, Siti Aisyah Mustapha, was honored as the Best Orator.



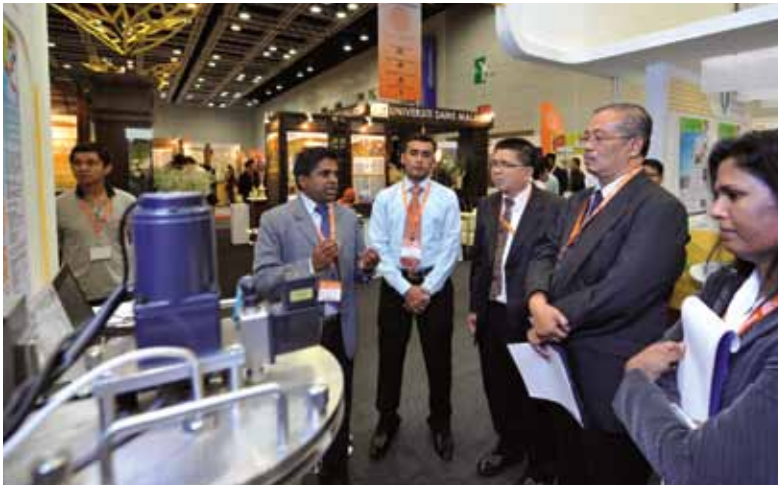
10 Researchers Won Medals At IENA And Bio Malaysia Exhibition 2010

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) continued to gain success after 10 researchers won two gold medals, four silver medals and four bronze medals at the International Exhibition Ideas - Invention New Products (IENA) 2010 in Germany and Bio Malaysia Exhibition 2010 in Kuala Lumpur recently.

Two entries were submitted at IENA by Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resource Engineering researchers, Associate Professor Dr. Hayder A. Abdul Bari and Dr. Chin Sim Yee.

Dr. Hayder won gold for his work titled, "*Aloe Vera Mucilage As New Flow Improving Agent In Pipelines Carrying Liquids In Turbulent Mode*" while Dr Chin took home a silver medal for his research, "*Modified Heterogeneous Process For the Production Of Biodiesel With Glycerol Acetal Additive*".

By: DR ARUN GUPTA



With the success of UMP's researchers, this will inspire others to launch the university on the international stage.

At the Bio Malaysia Exhibition, the faculty's researcher Dr. Arun Gupta won a gold medal for his research project titled, "*Nano-Wood Composites*".

Products manufactured using nano technology can help better the country's timber industry as the goods can replace solid wood, they contain greater mechanics features which are more environmental friendly. Exports can be increased and this will make the timber-based industry stronger.

Another researcher,

Associate Professor Dr. Abdurahman Hamid Nour won a silver medal for his work titled, "*Development Of A Membrane Anaerobic System (MAS) For Sewage Sludge Treatment*". He had successfully developed an alternative system that effectively treats sludge.

A research product titled, "*Anaerobic Degradation Of Palm Oil Mill Effluent With Butyrate As A Sole Substrate*" by Dr. Anwar Ahmad and a product developed using natural material to control affects of dengue by Dr. Azhari Hamid Nour

Abduelraman also won silver medals.

Other bronze medallists were Dr. D.M. Reddy Prasad, Dr. Mohammad Dalour Hossen Beg and Dr. Jolius Gim bun.

Saiful Nizam Tajuddin and Professor Dr. Mashitah Mohd Yusoff from Faculty of Industrial Sciences and Technology also won a bronze medal for their work, "*UMP Gaharu Quality Index*".

With the success of UMP's researchers, this will inspire others to launch the university on the international stage.

UMP RESEARCHERS BAG 10 MEDALS AT MTE 2011

Researchers from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) continue to accumulate accolades when they bag 10 medals – one gold, two silver and seven bronze – at the Malaysia Technology Exposition (MTE), held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre recently.

Dr Ahmed N Abd Alla from UMP's Faculty of Electronics & Electrical Engineering made the university proud with the sole gold through his research entitled, "A Cellular Energy Management System for Monitoring and Controlling Based on Time of Power Consumption" – a system to read electric meter within a shorter time-span, using a research product called Smart Meter.

According to Dr Ahmed, the system allows consumers to conserve as it does not require any major fitting work to the electrical meters currently installed in residential and industrial premises. "In fact, this research product is so innovative, to the point that it can generate a reading and transmit the information of current electrical usage via short message service (SMS).

"The gadget may be fitted either digitally or analogically, and it



is user-friendly as compared to those currently found in the local market and abroad," he added.

Meanwhile, two of the silver medals went to Associate Professor Dr Hayder Abdul Bari from the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) with his "Novel Mechanical Technique to Improve the Flow in Pipelines (UMP Octopus)"; and Dr Arun Gupta with his "Innovative Technique to Extract Keratin Protein from Chicken Feather".

Three other FKKSA researchers – Associate Professor

Zulkafli Hassan, Associate Professor Dr Abdurahman Hamid Nour and Dr Iqbal Ahmed – along with Kumaran Kadirgama (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering) and Dr Noraziah Ahmad (Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering) took home the bronze. UMP also bagged the best "barespace" in the booth category.

This year's MTE saw a collective display of 500 research products from 65 local government agencies, institutions of higher learning as well as schools from Poland, Singapore, South Korea and Spain.

UMP SPREADS WINGS TO SARAJEVO



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has spread its wings to Sarajevo when it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the fields of academic development as well as research and development with the University of Sarajevo last October 20.

Through the MoU, UMP and University of Sarajevo have agreed to collaborate on students and academic staff exchange, as well as attachment of visiting professors at

both universities.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim signed the memorandum on behalf of UMP whilst University of Sarajevo was represented by its Rector, Professor Dr Faruk Caklovica.

According to Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir, the signing of the MoU would pave the way for the two universities to complement each other and foster stronger ties.

"This new collaboration detailed the need for an exchange of

"This new collaboration detailed the need for an exchange of academic information and expertise, especially in the fields of engineering and technology between the two universities,"

academic information and expertise, especially in the fields of engineering and technology between the two universities," he emphasized.

Present at the signing ceremony were University of Sarajevo's Deputy Rector, Professor Dr Slavenka Vobornik; and several of its deans – Professor Dr Ejub Dzafeferovic (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering), Professor Dr Kemo Sokolija (Faculty of Electrical Engineering), Professor Dr Ahmed Hadrovic (Faculty of Architecture), Professor Dr Mustafa Hrasnica (Faculty of Civil Engineering) and Professor Dr Samir Causevic (Faculty of Transportation & Communications).

Meanwhile, accompanying Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir to Sarajevo were UMP's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz; and Deputy Registrar, Haryani Abdullah. The three also took the opportunity to visit the University of Dzemal Bijedic (Mostar) and the University of Tuzla in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Head of Malaysian Embassy in Bosnia, Khairul Nazran Abdul Rahman, was also present to witness the historical event.

UMP RECEIVES RM1.085 MILLION

CENFED, UMPH WELCOMES AGENCIES' COOPERATION

UMP Holdings Sdn. Bhd. (UMPH), a subsidiary of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Centre of Continuing Education and Professional Development (CENFED) contributed RM1 million and RM85,689.53, respectively to the university.

It was their first payout to UMP.

According to UMPH Chairman, Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman, they valued the cooperation rendered by UMP's management, lecturers and consultants who had given a lot of inputs to the company's development.

"The cooperation from related agencies that issue certification and provide funding to CENFED programmes ensure that the courses offered will contribute to developing the country's human resources.

"The agencies are Occupational Safety and Health Department (DOSH), Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB) and SME Corp Malaysia," he said.

He said this in his speech at an appreciation dinner organised by UMPH and CENFED attended by some 200 guests at Dewan Astaka UMP on December 13, 2010.

He added that the purchase of several lots in Gambang campus covering some 240,000 square metre through Affin Islamic Bank Berhad



financing enabled the university to build infrastructure that would spur learning and teaching activities.

"Rental fees collected from facilities leased such as the sports complex hall, analytical laboratory, lecture halls and land in Gambang helped to generate income for the company.

"The contribution made is a manifestation of institutes of higher learning competent enough to generate 30% their own income. It meets the Government's for public universities to make it on their own, financially. I am confident that UMP is capable of doing so.

"UMPH has also set up its own subsidiary, UMP Green Technology Sdn. Bhd. which is expected to churn a sum of RM1.2million annually.

"More consultancy projects and technical services involving faculties and industrial companies are expected that will contribute RM300,000 every year," he added.

Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz also said he anticipated more engineering and technology-related programmes

would be conducted and he projected an income of more than RM4 million for the following year.

He hoped the company's business would continue to expand, in line with the Government's aspiration to make Malaysia a high-income nation.

Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz who represented UMPH and CENFED, gave away the contributions to Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim. Also present were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Professor Dato' Dr Rosli Mohd Yunus, UMPH Chief Executive Officer, Mohamad Nazri Musa and CENFED Acting Director Tuan Haji Jamil Basri.

Among the guests who attended the dinner were UMP board of director member and Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua Sdn. Bhd. (PERODUA) Managing Director, Datuk Aminar Rashid Salleh and Higher Education Ministry's Loan Management And Financial Market Division Deputy Secretary, Tuan Haji Maliami Hamad.

VICE-CHANCELLOR RECEIVES AGBA AWARD

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim received AGBA Life-Time Achievement Award 2010 in conjunction with the 7th Academy for Global Business Advancement (AGBA) World Congress organised by Academy for Global Business Advancement (AGBA), USA and Universiti Putra Malaysia's School of Graduates Studies at Palm Garden

Hotel Putrajaya during the gathering held on December 1-3, 2010.

The award was presented by chairman of the congress, Professor Dr. Shawn Carraher from Minot State University, USA.

It was in recognition to Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir scholarly accounting field, as an educator and researcher as well as his involvement in management and professional bodies.

The award was also an

acknowledgement to his contribution in the development of management and business studies in Malaysia.

More than 250 local and foreign participants attended the congress. Among the topics discussed in paper works that were presented, among others, focused on business studies such as management, accounting, financial, marketing, strategy and human resource management.

The award was presented by chairman of the congress, Professor Dr. Shawn Carraher from Minot State University, USA.



Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham, the new Deputy VC

Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, has been appointed Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) for three years, effective from June 1, 2010 until May 31, 2013. He replaces Professor Dato' Dr. Sabarudin Mohd.

Dr. Badhrulhisham, 47, earned his Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from Colorado University in the US, Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering from University College of Wales (Swansea) in the UK and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Kyoto University, Japan.

He started his academic career as a tutor and lecturer in Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

He has wide experience in the industrial sector having worked as a senior manager (operation and health safety security environment) in SKS Refinery Sdn. Bhd. and operations manager in Cabot Material Research Sdn Bhd.

Dr. Badhrulhisham then ventured into the academic line and became a lecturer and eventually a professor at UMP.

He had conducted a lot of research works and presented working papers in the subject of chemical engineering, locally and



He has wide experience in the industrial sector having worked as a senior manager (operation and health safety security environment) in SKS Refinery Sdn. Bhd. and operations manager in Cabot Material Research Sdn Bhd.

abroad.

He also served as a consultant for the Palm Oil Registration & Licensing Authority (PORLA) that determined the quality criteria and standards in palm oil factories.

He is also as a consultant appointed by the Pahang government to map out the development of the state's biotechnology sector.

His extensive knowledge

and expertise in the academic line and industrial sector proved to be a valuable asset and in 2005, Dr. Badhrulhisham was appointed as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation).

He then went on to be UMP's head of corporate development and quality management center before entrusted with the latest post as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International).

“The understanding that we have is an excellent launch-pad for both UMP and NIU to pursue auxiliary collaborations in other focus areas, which we hope will eventually boost our global academic standing.”

Academic Collaboration: **UMP Spreads Wings To The US**



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) spreads its wings to the United States of America when it sealed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Northern Illinois University (NIU) in Dekalb, Illinois, on November 22, 2010.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, signed the MoU on behalf of the Malaysian university whilst NIU was represented by its Provost/ Executive Vice-President, Raymond W Alden III.

The newly minted strategic relationship covers several areas of networking, including exploring the possibility of setting up of an engineering technology programme.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir elaborated that the discussions he had with the NIU Provost also revolved around students' exchange and twinning programmes, short-term attachment of academic staff and students' mobility.

“UMP will certainly benefit from this bilateral academic cooperation, especially so when tapping NIU's vast experience in engineering technology programmes and sharing the exploration of new field of studies like environmental

studies, energy and sustainability, and nano-sciences,” he said.

Furthermore, the Vice-Chancellor said, the signing of the MoU has stamped a stronger foothold in the two universities' collaborative efforts in computer science and technology programmes.

“This is also in line with the aspirations and initiatives of the Government of Malaysia to produce pragmatic engineers and technologists to meet current employment market demands,” Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir added.

“The understanding that we have is an excellent launch-pad for both UMP and NIU to pursue auxiliary collaborations in other focus areas, which we hope will eventually boost our global academic standing.”

Meanwhile, Alden expressed high hopes that whatever has been discussed will materialize and prove beneficial for the two parties to the

signature.

“The MoU that we just signed will be a historic milestone in the international cooperation between our two academic institutions, especially in promulgating the fields of science and technology,” he emphasized.

Accompanying Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir on his visit to America were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz; Director of International Office, Dr Wan Norlidah Al-Qadri; and Senior Assistant Registrar from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Office (Academic & International), Mohd Raizalhilmly Mohd Rais.

The UMP delegation took a guided tour to NIU's College of Engineering & Engineering Technology, and attended a series of mutual discussions with NIU to form the initial networking strategies.

UMP, KUAS tie-up to enhance mould & die manufacturing

This effort to bolster the skills of local workforce in the making of mould and die would in turn support the expansion of the country's automotive industry.



To further develop the mould and die manufacturing industry in Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has entered into an academic and research collaboration with Taiwan's National Kaohsiung University of Applied Sciences (KUAS), with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Banquet Hall of UMP's Chancellery on August 3, 2010.

UMP Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr Rosli Mohd Yunus, signed the MoU on behalf of the university, whilst KUAS was represented by its President, Professor Chun-Hsiung Fang and its Chairman of the Department of Manufacturing Engineering (Mould & Die), Professor Cheng-Hsien Wu.

The tie-up with KUAS – known worldwide for its engineering prowess – was hoped to enhance the local manufacturing industry, thereby minimizing Malaysia's intake of expatriates and dependence on foreign expertise in the relevant fields.

This effort to bolster the skills of local workforce in the making of mould and die would in turn support the expansion of the country's automotive industry.

According to Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir, "With this MoU, UMP would now be able to procure Visiting Professors from KUAS, who are expert in the manufacturing of mould and die.

"UMP has also taken it a step further, by offering the subject on mould and die as an elective course for Third Year students in the Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering & Technology Management (FKPPT), starting this semester.

"The collaboration with KUAS is further hoped to advance the knowledge, skills and expertise of UMP's teaching and learning, as well as research and development (R&D), of mould and die," he added.

Presently, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted, UMP's Automotive Excellent Centre (AEC) is working closely with the industry involved in the making of mould and die through R&D activity among postgraduate students as well as by offering a course leading to a diploma in the said field.

Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir expressed his hopes that the collaboration between the two universities would extend further to include engineering fields of automotive, electrical and electronics in the near future.

Meanwhile, in his address, KUAS President, Professor Chun-Hsiung Fang, said he hoped the collaboration entailing R&D, students exchange programme and postgraduate programmes, would prove beneficial to both universities in the long run.

The KUAS duo was accompanied by its Director-General of the Centre of Academy-Industry, Professor Jinn-Jong Sheu, and the Director of International Office, Professor Chun-Hsien Kuo. They were shown around UMP's FKPPPT.

Accompanying the KUAS quartet on the tour were UMP's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz; Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Planning & Quality Management), Professor Dr Shamsuddin Baharin; Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Students Affair & Alumni), Professor Dr Yuserrie Zainuddin; Director of AEC, Mohd Paudzi Abdullah; and Deputy Dean of FKPPPT, Associate Professor Dr Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff.

Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir expressed his hopes that the collaboration between the two universities would extend further to include engineering fields of automotive, electrical and electronics in the near future.



MAI, UMP to produce more than 5,600 local automotive engineers in various dicipline by 2015



The Malaysia Automotive Institute (MAI), an agency under the Ministry of International Trade & Industry (MITI) announced its strategic alliance with Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), to produce engineers in various automotive disciplines which in-line with MAI directive in collaboration with Institution of Higher Learning in producing more than 5600 automotive engineers by 2015 on 15 March 2011.

This alliance is another milestone for MAI, in its efforts to further enhance the competitiveness of the local automotive industry.

CEO of MAI, Madani Sahari and UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) document in the presence of Minister of International Trade & Industry, Malaysia, Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed.

The partnership with UMP is centred on three main areas - Tooling & Manufacturing Engineering, Technology Development and Component Testing.

"Tooling is an important aspect in the manufacturing of vehicles, which includes key areas



of Metal Stamping Dies and Plastic Injection Moulding," explained Madani.

As a focal point and coordination centre for the development of the local automotive industry MAI's objectives include enhancing human capital development.

This approach involves working with industry leaders and academic institutions to help identify current shortfalls in the industry and address this by coordinating

programmes/ initiatives that will produce graduates that the industry specifically needs.

MAI seeks to strengthen ties between academia and industry to ensure that graduates that are produced will fulfil industry needs.

According to Madani, this collaboration is aimed enhancing quality of human capital in the local Automotive Industry. We are looking at producing 1,500 tooling engineers and 500 Lean Production System (LPS)Engineers by 2015.

The partnership with UMP is centred on three main areas - Tooling & Manufacturing Engineering, Technology Development and Component Testing.



“Immediately there will be 30 tooling and 31 LPS Engineers qualifying this April,” he said.

This programme will see undergraduates of two courses (Mould Engineering & Dies Engineering) working alongside engineers at OEMs and vendors during their industrial practical training.

It is expected that students will be seconded to OEMs and over 100 vendors in the metal, plastic and casting sub-sectors. Madani explained that this aspect of the collaboration was already underway, producing the first batch of 40 engineers in April this year.

Madani also explained, a significant part of this partnership will be the ability for UMP to provide component testing services currently not available in the country and to help develop advance automotive component technology for over 20 automotive suppliers.

Malaysia Automotive Institute (MAI) in collaboration with the other automotive vendor associations and the public Institutions of Higher Learning

have worked towards identifying the industry needs in automotive component testing.

The objective of this exercise is to identify the gap between the testing needs of the component industry against the available component testing facilities in the country and henceforth to recommend solutions in addressing the gap. The use of testing facilities at UMP and other universities is one of these solutions.

This strategic alliance will also focus on Technology Development, to further enhance the overall development of the local automotive industry via applied research and development.

Madani explained, UMP is a premier public higher institution actively involved in research, training and students related development initiatives at local and international and this is exactly why we have chosen to collaborate with them.

Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing

Nasir said, the tooling industry, especially the Mold and Die making industry, is an emerging and critical

engineering field in Malaysia which is emphasised and supported by the government. Skilled and competent workforce in this industry is needed for Malaysia to be self-sufficient.

We are pleased to broaden our partnership with MAI and through this collaboration, UMP students, lecturers, researchers and industry experts alike are expected to contribute and share their technical expertise and technology knowhow in filling the gap.

He continued, UMP’s Mold and Die Engineering program is currently being offered by its Manufacturing Engineering Department and is concentrating on producing engineering graduates with relevant capabilities and skills especially in the mold and die engineering as needed by the industry in Malaysia.

UMP hopes the collaboration could be expanded to other engineering fields such as mechanical engineering, electronic and electrical engineering and other relevant fields in future.

1,000 visitors at UMP's Invention Exhibition

Its objective was to increase awareness on the importance of creative thinking as well as to inculcate innovation culture in the society especially among students at secondary schools up to those in universities.

More than 1,000 visitors comprising students from institutes of higher learning (IPT) and schools around Kuantan came to the Invention and Innovation Competition organised by Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) at Dewan Astaka, Gambang on October 4, 2010.

According to Centre for Continuing Education and Professional Development (CENFED) Acting Director, Tuan Haji Jamil Basri, the competition's theme was 'Innovation For Life'.

Its objective was to increase awareness on the importance of creative thinking as well as to inculcate innovation culture in the society especially among students at secondary schools up to those in universities.

A total of 70 entries were



submitted to vie for the first prize which was cash RM1,500 for IPT and RM1,000 for secondary school.

Tuan Haji Jamil said creative thinking and innovation culture needed to be instilled to create wealth, knowledge and comfort for the society.

"Creativity and innovation required a society that has the courage to make changes.

"This is why it is essential for the society to develop creative thinking in order to achieve a developed nation status by 2020," he added.



“Creativity and innovation required a society that has the courage to make changes.



(KLIUC), Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) Muadzam Shah, Pahang, MRSM PDRM Kulim Kedah, Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Aminuddin Baki, Kuala Lumpur, Sekolah Menengah Vokasional Slim River, Perak and Sekolah Berasrama Penuh Integrasi Sabak Bernam.

Tuan Haji Jamil hoped that the biennial competition would spur the culture of invention among the society, creating the habit of sharing knowledge and dream of bright ideas.

Also present at the event were Marimas Sdn Bhd managing director and Pahang Malay Contractors Association President Datuk Haji Che Wan Mohd Khalid Mohamad, its Honorary Secretary, Rahim Abd Samad, Pahang Education Department’s Human Resource Development Sector Head, Jaafar Idris and UMP’s management.

On the entries received for the competition, Tuan Haji Jamil said evaluations were made based on who created the most engaging piece.

Sekolah Menengah Sains Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang was crowned as the champion for the Best of the Best category for secondary school with their creation, ‘Palm Oil, Hero to Zero Pollution’ while the IPTA category was won by UiTM Shah Alam for their work on the future of cities based on the Night City in Alor Gajah, Melaka.

Other special awards

presented were the Inventor Award that was won by Sekolah Menengah Teknik, Tengku Ampuan Afzan, Bentong while Sekolah Menengah Teknik (Pertanian) Teluk Intan, Perak took home the Industrial Science Special Award.

The Most Friendliest Award went to Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia.

Among the entries received were from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam, UiTM Jengka, Institut Kemahiran Mara (IKM) Beseri, Kuala Lumpur Infrastructure University College



UMP LAUNCH MALAYSIA'S FIRST ACADEMIC INITIATIVE ON CAMPUS

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) strengthened its partnership with IBM and HeiTech Padu Berhad with the launch of Malaysia's first Academic Initiative on Campus "Center of Excellence" on 9 March 2011 recently.

The center aims to teach and develop skills specifically on IBM technologies to produce graduates with the knowledge and skills to meet the growing IT and business needs

of the public and private sectors in Malaysia.

It will enhance the capabilities of IT education at institutions such as UMP in producing graduates and postgraduates with high quality skills and professional IBM certification.

The Center of Excellence is the highlight of the System z Academic Initiative Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between UMP, IBM and HeiTech Padu in June 2010.

The tripartite alliance signifies strong commitment by UMP, HeiTech Padu and IBM in supporting the Government's aspiration toward human capital development, specifically in bridging the shortage in System z technical skills in Malaysia. It also aims to position Malaysia as a hub of skilled IT experts and mainframe specialists in this region.

Under the collaboration, UMP will provide teaching resources



The establishment of the Center of Excellence will enable UMP to produce graduates with relevant IT knowledge and skills, to contribute to the creation of valuable work, locally and globally



and facilities, whilst IBM will provide leading software, courseware, training and testing necessary to gain IBM certification. HeiTech Padu will also provide UMP with the hardware infrastructure, as well as internships and job opportunities for its graduates.

Students will be trained in IBM hardware and software technology, particularly the System z mainframe technology as well as DB2, WebSphere, and Tivoli software capabilities.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, Universiti Malaysia Pahang said, The opening of the Center of Excellence on our campus will bring us one step closer to realizing our vision of becoming a world class technological university.

"We are pleased to broaden our partnership with IBM and HeiTech Padu to add value and increase the number of local skilled computer

science and software engineering graduates to contribute to the local and global ICT workforce.

"We recognize the need for more IT specialists as they are essential to any enterprise, but are hampered by the current lack of such skilled resources.

"Responding to the demands of the market, and the increased requirement for research and development knowledge, the Center of Excellence is being established with the aim of producing such graduates with the required knowledge, ability and analytic skills to plan and manage IT effectively through innovative learning process and practical teamwork," he said.

Managing Director, IBM Malaysia, Ramanathan Sathiamutty said, IBM is proud to strengthen our cooperation with institutions of higher learning like UMP, that are committed to the development of information technology.

"The establishment of the Center of Excellence will enable UMP to produce graduates with relevant IT knowledge and skills, to contribute to the creation of valuable work, locally and globally," he said.

He continued, IBM will

continue to seek out opportunities to collaborate with leading academic institutions to help build up the skill set of our students to enhance their employability and to meet the demands of the ICT industry.

"This is an ongoing effort by IBM in bringing innovation and progress to the nation, and in supporting the nation's quest to be a high-income, knowledge economy. IBM celebrates its 50th anniversary in Malaysia this year," he said.

Concentrating on the development of technological infrastructure, UMP is currently the first and only institution in Malaysia to teach its students capabilities of the IBM System z mainframe that comes with features that are fully in line with IBM's vision of a "Smarter Planet."

The flexibility of the system integration provides distinction in terms of processing stability, contributing to lower costs and energy savings.

Universities around the world are using the IBM System z mainframe as part of the teaching curriculum, with more than 500 universities and over 50,000 students who have been certified.

CELS' GLOBAL CERTIFICATION TO BOOST INDUSTRY CONFIDENCE

"UMP has always emphasized on the practice of safety, health and environmental preservation. These certifications went to show that our laboratory is the best in the East Coast,"
- Vice-Chancellor



testing at our university. Aside from that, these laboratories will be used for optimal teaching and learning experience," said Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir.

Effective for three years beginning from July 6, 2006, the Vice-Chancellor added that the certification was a step forward in the acculturation of the university's research and development endeavours, especially set out to realize the objectives of the University-Industry concept in its 2008-2010 Strategic Planning.

According to Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir, the international recognition could, furthermore, be seen as UMP's initiative to

The Civil Engineering Laboratory Services (CELS) at Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources recently received a global certification for its high-quality laboratory management.

Ecstatic about the university's achievement, UMP's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, said the ISO/EIC 17025:2005 certification was a testimony of how well-managed UMP's laboratories were – systematically run according to world standards.

"Such certification is hoped to attract more industries to conduct product

encourage companies to carry out surface water sampling and wastewater testing for industrial production.

"It will prove beneficial to the students as well, when it comes to learning of and getting exposed to the techniques and methodologies applied in international standards certification," he emphasized.

The Vice-Chancellor couldn't contain to express his joy of three other certifications received by the university – two from NIOSH Certification Sdn. Bhd. on the Employment Safety & Health Management System (OHSAS 18001:2007) and MS 1722:Part 1:2005 and another, Environmental Management System (ISO 14001:2004) –



all for the laboratories at the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering.

These two management systems collectively form the Safety, Health & Environmental Unified System.

"UMP has always emphasized on the practice of safety, health and environmental preservation. These certifications went to show that our laboratory is the best in the East Coast," exclaimed the Vice-Chancellor at a press conference in conjunction with the "Moh Makan Durian" programme with media practitioners.

The programme was held in appreciation of the positive coverage given by the media since UMP's establishment eight years ago.

During the same event, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir took the opportunity to announce the recognition bestowed on the university by the Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation for the research conducted at its laboratory to assist the small and medium enterprises vide the BioNexus Partners Programme.

Held concurrently with the announcement of the recognition and in celebration of the university's 5th Convocation in October was an



invention and innovation competition, themed "Innovation for Life". Three categories were contested – Close (for UMP only) and Open (for all institutions of higher learning, and secondary schools).

Present at the event were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz; Registrar, Mustafa Ibrahim; Dean of the Faculty

of Manufacturing Engineering & Technology Management, Professor Dr. Ahmad Othman; Berita Harian Bureau Chief, Abdul Razak Raaf; New Straits Times Press Bhd. (Kuantan) Manager, Fauzi Abdul Hamid; and Harian Metro journalist, Zaitie Satibi.

Among other media practitioners seen at the event were Bernama, RTM Pahang, The Star, Utusan Malaysia and Kosmo!

UMP GRADUATES SELECTED TO PIONEER AEROSPACE INDUSTRY



Three graduates from Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FKM) were among the 24 candidates who secured their seats in the "Aerospace Leaders" pilot programme, successfully beating thousands of other contenders in the nationwide search.

This means the three – Hairisuddin Idris and Mohd Zaid Zakaria, both 23, with Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering, and Nurul Husna Md Sharif, 24, with a Bachelor in Automotive Engineering – would soon find themselves employed as engineers in three of the country's world-renowned aerospace corporations, with the expertise to manufacture components for aerospace exploration.

This pilot programme was the brainchild of the Ministry of Higher Education, with close participation of public institutions of higher learning, and the collaboration of Malaysian-Industry Group for High Technology,

Spirit Aero Systems Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., Strand Aerospace Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. and Composites Technology Research Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (CTRM).

According to the Programme Coordinator, Marlizan Markali from Might-Meteor Advanced Manufacturing Sdn. Bhd., of the 500 who qualified to the final selection process, only 24 aspirants were chosen. Of the number, 20 were males and four females. These 24 will be equally distributed for employment among the three participating aerospace corporations.

"However, prior to their secondment to these companies, they have to undergo intensive training in soft skills, where they will acquire communication proficiency and 16 months of technical competency".

"They will be trained in both theory and practical, especially in utilizing the CATIA software, until they become well-versed and expert in the required fields," said Marlizan.

The only rose among the thorns – Nurul Husna – who will be joining US-based Spirit Aero Systems in Subang, Selangor, said she felt fortunate to have put up a good fight and beaten other applicants who actually possessed educational qualifications in aerospace.

She believed she had made the right decision to apply as employers' demand for the particular skills and expertise is expected to rise in the not-too-distant future.

Meanwhile, Mohd Zaid could not believe his interest in aerospace has finally turned into reality, when offered to work with UK-founded Strand Group of Companies.

Hairisuddin, who will be employed at CTRM, expressed his bountiful gratitude, for the exposures to acquiring humanitarian and soft skills at UMP have landed him and the other two these hard-earned placements in the aerospace industry.

Present at the official launching of the Soft Skills Course at the Agro Resort Semuji in Kuantan, Pahang, were UMP's Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr Yuserrrie Zainuddin; Might-Meteor Chief Operation Officer (COO), Jasmin Baba; Strand COO, Naquib Mohd Nor; as well as representatives from Spirit AeroSystems and CTRM.

VC: STAND UP & BE HEARD

“One way to make such a communal impact is through activities, including voluntary ones, organized by the university’s Students’ Council (MPM),”



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, has called upon UMP students to take advantage of the availed opportunities to voice their concerns and to be heard.

“One way to make such a communal impact is through activities, including voluntary ones, organized by the university’s Students’ Council (MPP),” he emphasized, adding that he was thankful that the recent MPP’s election for the 2011/2012 session has taken place without a glitch.

In his opening address at the MPP’s pledge of allegiance ceremony, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir aired his views that volunteerism should be inculcated and developed from

one generation to another as the MPP prioritize its activities to reflect maturity and wisdom in maintaining an atmosphere of harmony within the campus.

On this note, the Vice-Chancellor was all praise for a group of UMP student-volunteers who went the extra mile to go cross-country promoting the university’s “We Care” campaign recently.

He also expressed high hopes for the MPP to assist the university in implementing its 2011-2015 Strategic Planning by proposing value-added initiatives and programmes in enhancing academic quality, financial sustainability, socio-economic development and branding.

The swearing-in ceremony, held at the Banquet Hall of the Chancellery Building, saw 24

members of the MPP 2011/2012 session took the pledge of responsibility and loyalty in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor.

At the ceremony, the newly elected Head of MPP, Muhammad Fazli Abdul Halim, gave his word that under his stewardship, the students’ body will approach every endeavour well-mannered and professionally.

Assisting Fazli in the new session are Deputy Sazwan Sahar, Treasurer Shahira Mohd Basir and 21 other general and faculty committee members.

At the closing of the ceremony, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir recorded his appreciation for the stewardship, commitment and contribution of Mohd Aedlan Nur Ahmad in the last MPP session.



GACC IS OPEN IN UMP

“Beginning July 2010, the Bachelor of Mechatronics Engineering was offered. The offering entails joint teaching and exam setting by the two universities,” he said.

The Opening Ceremony of the German Academic and Career Centre (GACC) officially marked the implementation of the first Dual-Degree Programme with a German Partner that is fully conducted on Malaysia soil on 21st December 2010 recently.

Derived from the strategic direction of the Ministry of Higher Education to implement high-quality, practical oriented engineering program, Germany’s renowned hands-on education model was adopted by Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP).

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said, both partners, UMP and Karlsruhe University of Applied Science (HsKA), achieved the compliance of their partnership and its required accreditation within the pattern setting pace of less than a year.

“Beginning July 2010, the Bachelor of Mechatronics Engineering was offered. The offering entails joint teaching and exam setting by the two universities,” he said.



In addition to its main task in mediating between UMP and HsKA, GACC will also seek co-operation with the German industry in Malaysia to assure an education that is based on and tailored for the demands and needs of the working life.

SGL Group Malaysia is one of the first companies who has followed the implementation of the Dual-Degree Programme observingly, being well aware of the potential it hold for the industry. The GACC used the auspicious inauguration for the signing of a letter of Intent (LOI) between UMP, represented by Managing Director, Khiang Hua Lim. The LoI cover academic and research collaborations as well as preliminaries for an exclusive Human Capital Development.

Professor Dato' Daing Nasir envisages a couple of other programs in engineering and technology in the pipeline of the collaboration as GACC consolidates its functions and roles in UMP. Automotive and Business & Engineering programs are among that have been mentioned at this point in time.

UMP AS THE BASKETBALL SPORTS CENTRE FOR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

He said this was in line with the Higher Education Institute Sports Development Policy that focused more on developing sports activity and programme, adding, basketball had been identified as one of the main components in the plan.

*Higher Education
Deputy Minister,
Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah*

Higher Education Deputy Minister, Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah announced that Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) was picked as the basketball sports center for public universities in the country.

He said this when launching Malaysia Higher Education Deputy Minister Trophy's 3rd Basketball Carnival held at SUKPA Indoor Stadium, Kuantan on October 8, 2010.

He said this was in line with the Higher Education Institute Sports Development Policy that focused more on developing sports activity and programme, adding, basketball had been identified as one of the main components in the plan.

"Organising the basketball carnival is an initiative that would add value and impact sports as a way of life among undergraduates.

"The game can be turned into a 1Malaysia Sports by getting all races to participate," he added.

Dato' Saifuddin suggested that UMP played a role as the medium in scouting new talents and helping to upgrade the quality of the game among students.

He also said the ministry had set a minimum target of 30% that national players must include undergraduates from public universities nationwide.

According to the carnival's tournament Tuan Haji Mustafa Ibrahim, UMP was now drafting a sports development

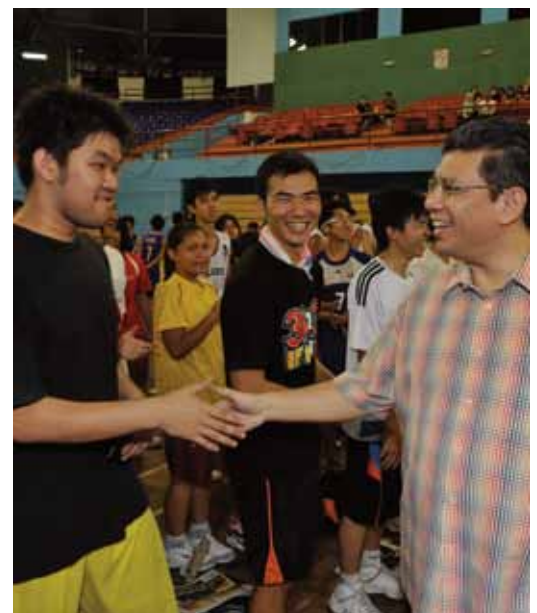


programme together with the ministries of Higher Education, Education, Sports and Youth as well as Malaysia Basketball Association (MABA).

A total of 133 teams, comprising 113 from public universities and 20 from secondary schools, took part in the tournament.

Under the public university category, Universiti Malaya A (UM-A) was named the winner for men's group after defeating Universiti Putra Malaysia A (UPM-A). The women's group was won by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM-A) when they beat Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM-D).

Under the secondary school category, the winner for the boys' group was Majlis Sukan Sekolah Kelantan (MSSK)



after the team overpowered SMK Air Putih, Kuantan while SMK Air Putih (A) grabbed the first prize for the girls' group.

Prizes were presented by Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim. Champions of each category received RM2,000 in cash, a trophy and certificate while first runners-up took home cash of RM1,500. Third placings were rewarded with RM1,000.

Also present were Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr Yuserrie Zainuddin, Sports Centre Head Jasni Ladin and MABA Kuantan Chairman, Yap Kim Heng.



VC LAUNCHES UMP ALUMNI PORTAL



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim urged UMP Alumni Association members to continue to stay in touch with each other to foster ties and for them to exchange valuable experience.

"UMP Alumni Association is expected to continue making its contribution as an alma mater and carry on its rapport with the university," he said in his speech at the launching of the alumni's portal during a dinner organised by the Student Affairs and Alumni Department (JHEPA) at Bukit

Gambang Resort on October 9, 2010.

He added that the newly launched portal would be a platform to disseminate information and hold useful activities for the betterment of everyone.

"UMP does not only function as an institution that assembles a group of people who seek knowledge but also an establishment that churns out good administrators and in return, gives back to the nation.

"UMP welcomes and encourages the alumni's members to participate in the many activities organised by UMP," he said.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor

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(Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin also urged alumni members to be actively involved in organising activities and to join forces with UMP staff in meeting the university's vision.

A member of the association Shaheil Nordin, 26, expressed his gratitude that the event had managed to attract more than 700 former students from all races.

He hoped the portal would serve as a means to maintain the relationship between UMP and alumni members and for them to be informed of the latest happenings in the university.

Also present were the first Rector when UMP was known as Kolej Universiti Kejuruteraan & Teknologi Malaysia (KUKTEM), Professor Dato' Dr. Abu Azam Md. Yassin and his wife, Professor Datin Dr Nasly Mohamed Ali, who was the Graduate Studies Centre Dean.

Former students of UMP who wish to register as members can do so at <http://alumni.ump.edu.my/>.



UMP GETS SECOND PLACING IN NACES 2010

Ten students from Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resource Engineering, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) were selected to take part in a competition of National Chemical Engineering Symposium at Shah Alam on December 19, 2010.

The theme was 'Green Technology'. The participants were chemical engineering students from 12 institutes of higher learning in the country.

According to the faculty's dean Associate Professor Zulkafli Hassan, it was UMP's first involvement in the competition and it had been a good experience for the students.

He said the students shared information about chemical engineering and chemical industry.

He added that the programme aimed at producing engineers who were bold and competitive.

"Their success showed that UMP students were capable of competing at a higher level and their winnings were something to be proud of," Associate Professor Zulkafli said.

UMP was represented by Mohd Irwan Shah Md Zain, who was the team leader, Muhammad Ilham Miskon, Mohd Amiruddin Mohd Zaini and Mohd Usman Mohd Junaidi.

They took home the best

multimedia presentation prize.

Mohd Irwan said during the preliminary stage, the team introduced a concept using bio-ethanol as an alternative fuel to fossil fuel.

They reached the finals after beating Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UTAR), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and Curtin University of Technology.

Another team led by Kor Yue Kim with members Ezani Zahari, Mohamad Noradli Hashi and Florence Wednna Sanggie won the best technical design (factory).

Mohamad Sufian Khalid was picked to participate in the essay writing competition.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and UMP went to the finals to compete against Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) dan Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) after each was placed first and second in the preliminary rounds.

USM was declared as the champion of NACES 2010 with UMP as the runner-up and followed by UPM and UTM.

UTM was also announced at the host for NACES 2011.

7 BEST FRIENDS FORMED A BUSINESS COMPANY

They are in their 20s but that have not stopped a group of seven young people from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) to own a business company registered with the Companies Commission of Malaysia (CCM).

They are Muhammad Muhaimin Juhari, 23, Azmi Mohamad Ariff, 24, Mohd Huzairi Saidin, 23, Muhammad Yalah, 22, Emma Sofia Zulkefli, 23, and Suryanizam Sabturani, 23 – all are final-year degree programme students of Faculty of Computer Systems and Software Engineering. Another is Nazar Syafiq Nazri, 21, a final-year diploma programme student of the same faculty.

The group pooled together a sum of RM3,000 and with that amount, Media Lab Studio (MLE)

managing director Muhaimin and Azmi attended Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Training and Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Basic Course at the Entrepreneurial Unit of UMP's Student Affairs and Alumni.

According to Muhaimin, the idea to set up the company started when they found they had a common interest in animation especially in computer video games.

"MLE commences operations on March 11, 2009 at Fourth Residential College, UMP, offering services in developing computer video game, 2D animation, website settings, multimedia application and digital advertisement.

Although all of them were still studying, that did not get in their way to operate MLE as they

were able to apply things learned in classes.

"In fact, it helps to further enhance our knowledge and skills in developing the system taught by our lecturers," said the Sabah-born Muhaimin.

Despite being a new player in the field, MLE is slowly and surely making its marks not only in UMP and Kuantan but also at the international level.

Some of the works done included a multimedia presentation of an official event organised by UMP – Cendekia Bitara and providing multimedia software training to students in schools around Kuantan.

MLE's members had also won local and international competitions.

They won first prize in Asean-Korea Multimedia 2009 Competition organised by the country's Trade and International Ministry. Their entry was titled, "I'm No Alone".

MLE also succeeded in being a first runner-up in the MSC Malaysia-Institutes of Higher Learning Business Plan competition where they took home RM3,000, a third placing in the Eco-Bumi contest which came with





a prize of RM2,500 and the latest was the Malaysia Imagine Cup 2010 organised by Microsoft Corporation.

Eco-Bumi was a 'game side-scroller' or 'platformer', a project similar to *Mario* or *Rockman* designed for children from primary to secondary school.

It is designed as a fun game but at the same time, it gives positive input on the importance of protecting the environment.

According to Huzairi, *Game* was very popular among the youngsters.

"However, our application contains positive message to the players.

"Players will be entertained with the quality of the animation screen and graphics contained in Eco-Bumi."

Their success in setting up MLE and building up the company as they have set it out to be showed true grit and potential for them to be one of the major players in the industry.

Muhaimin is the chief programmer, responsible in ensuring that the *Game* functioned properly while Huzairi and Khalis are tasked with preparing the material to be applied in the *Game* such as *object sprites* and background impression.

When asked whether they

would continue with their business after getting their degrees, Azmi said they would proceed with the business as it was a challenging career with good, commercial potentials.

Emma, the only rose among the thorns, said she did not feel awkward to be among the males.

"In fact, I have made significant contribution in helping to develop the company as we share the same interest."

Emma also said currently, there were many graduates in the market who were jobless and she advised them to change their attitude and perception about venturing into business.

As for Nazar, he would want to continue his studies and obtain a degree like his friends.

However, he would remain with MLE as he believed there were a lot of opportunities to discover other apart from the theories learned in classes.

Muhaimin said discipline, commitment and perseverance were the keys that had helped strengthen MLE.

"I hope, one day, the company will come up with Malaysian products with qualities of international standard.

"MLE has dreams of producing sophisticated animation such as those produced in Japan but one with Malaysian values.

"We want something that inculcates the 1Malaysia concept and positive virtues that will bring about significant impact on the children" he said.



CHILDREN OF MALAYSIANS HELP EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

By: AHMAD ZIAD SULAIMAN



Some 200 children of Malaysians in North Palmerston, New Zealand did the country proud when they successfully staged a charity concert, "Road to Recovery Concert 2010" which went to that Malaysians remained to be a caring lot although they were abroad.

The concert attracted more than 1,000 people who came to watch cultural performances at the Reagent Theatre Hall aimed at raising funds to help earthquake victims at Christchurch and flood victims in Pakistan.

According to UMP senior lecturer, Ahmad Ziad Sulaiman, who was pursuing his doctorate at School of Engineering and Advanced Technology, Massey University, he was proud to see how committed the children in putting up the show.

"We, as the parents, were certainly proud of what

they had done.

"They managed to hold an array of performances that showcase the multi-ethnicity and culture of Malaysia," he added.

The children, aged between four and 12, performed 20 shows including a Malay wedding, 'silat' and a 'joget' dance. They were trained for three weeks by Puan Raja Haslinda.

Ahmad Ziad also said the costumes and stage props were contributed by the parents, adding, the concert was a platform for Malaysians to showcase their culture to locals.

"At the same time, we help to raise fund for the victims.

"We really sympathise with our neighbours at the South Island who were affected by the earthquake in September that destroyed more than 100,000 houses," he added.

He said they also made contributions to victims in Pakistan and that a disaster fund



was launched two months ago.

The concert was organised by Pakistan New Zealand Friendship Association president Karl Gill dan Tehseen Aslam and among the guests who attended it were Pakistan acting High Commissioner, North Palmerston Mayor, its Members of Parliament, company directors and North Palmerston association presidents.

UMP'S JOYOUS '1MALAYSIA' LIGHT FESTIVAL NIGHT

More than 1,000 people including students from institutes of higher learning and local residents in Kuantan flocked Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Sports Complex to celebrate the Light Festival Night organised by the university's Cultural and Arts Club on Oct 18, 2010.

Among those who attended were students from Olympia College, Shahputra College, Kuantan Nursing College, Kuantan Community College and UMP.

The programme's director and a Faculty of Mechanical Engineering student Jagatis s/o Baldiyah said he was very happy with the response showed by the students and public.

He said it was the first time that such an event was held and its objective was to foster closer ties between UMP and local residents as well as for them to know more about Indian culture.

On the 1Malaysia theme, Jagatis said it was to promote better relationship among the country's multi-racial society.

UMP Cultural Officer, Mohd Zaki Ahmad said Student Affairs and Alumni Department (JHEPA) fully supported activities that encouraged participation of those from various races.

By having programmes such as the Light Festival Night, it would help students to develop soft skills that would make them more competitive when graduated, he said.

"The society also needs to be more appreciative and respectful of the ethnicity of every race in Malaysia.

"Students will inherit the future and they need to uphold the customs and identity of their ancestors including traditional dances and attires," he added.

During the Light Festival Night, guests were entertained with colourful and interesting dances such as Allegra, Paalakadu, Banghra, Tanikai and a theater performance by UMP students.

There were also Chinese and Malay traditional dances that captivated the audience.

Some Malay and Chinese guests came dressed in Indian traditional clothing and it made the event more cheery.

According to Faculty of Chemical and Natural Resources Engineering undergraduate Ellie Fazlin, 22, she attended the event because she wanted to know and understand more about the Indian



By having programmes such as the Light Festival Night, it would help students to develop soft skills that would make them more competitive when graduated

culture.

Ellie who came dressed in an Indian traditional dress said she did not feel awkward at all wearing the attire.

In fact, she was proud to do so and able to enjoy the festival together with her friends.

The students, regardless of their races, also took part in making the 'kolam' using colourful rice at the stadium's main entry. A 'kolam' is a sign for Indian community that they will celebrate the auspicious Deepavali.



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