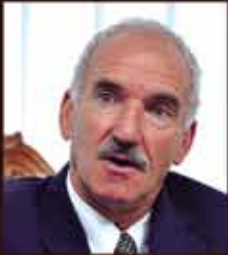


# PEKAN REVIEW

Education & Information Magazine | Vol. 2

Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG  
Engineering • Technology • Creativity

## UMP: First To Offer German-Modelled Engineering Programme

*Tengku Tan Sri Dr  
Mahaleel inaugurates  
UMP's National Public  
Lecture*

**Over 15,000  
Flock to  
Education  
Carnival at  
UMP**

'Matahari'  
rises on  
UMP's  
horizon





# *Innovative Engineering*

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## *Pekan Review rolls out second issue!*

Our humblest gratitude and praises to the Almighty for materializing this second issue of *Pekan Review*. The encouraging response from our readers, too, has made it possible for our team of contributors to push on industriously to keep our English bulletin going.

Our team was truly honored, and we stood proud when *Pekan Review* was officially launched by Pahang Menteri Besar, Dato' Sri Adnan Yaakob, on the prestigious Cendekia Bitara Award night in May. It was certainly a night to remember. Both the launching and the award night illustrated our commitment to deliver only the best as the sole technical university in the East Coast.

We extend our deepest appreciation to Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman, a member of the university's Board of Directors, for his precious time in sharing his experience and imparting his knowledge to our writers. During his tenure as director of UMP, he has shown perseverance and dedication towards uplifting the well-being of our beloved university.

Our heartiest congratulations go to Dr Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim for her outstanding achievement at the recent ITEX, thus, bringing recognition to UMP. It is our hope that other UMP researchers will emulate Dr Mimi's resolute diligence.

*Pekan Review* will continue to fan the flames of our university's global branding, and we look forward to sharing the news of success with our readers.

Happy reading!

**Abdul Rahman Haji Safie**



From the Editor's Desk



Vice-

# Chancellor's Voice

## 'We need to intensify internationalization efforts & research activities'

The second half of this year is expected to continue to be an uphill battle, despite the world's economy gradually moving out of its slump. It, however, has yet to fully recover. To this effect, time and again, I keep emphasizing that if UMP were to succeed in today's challenging economic times, we have to shift our focus onto the aspect of internationalizing Malaysia's tertiary education.

Realizing this pivotal aspect, UMP can now hold its head high, as the university has spearheaded the country's public institutions of higher learning in offering an engineering programme based on Germany's education curriculum at the Baccalaureate level. To date, 16 pioneering students have enrolled for the Mechatronics Engineering course, with double degrees to be conferred by UMP and German's Hochschule Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences (HsKA).

It is truly a success story, not only for UMP, but especially for the selected undergraduates, because it was never easy for a local public university to get the support and accreditation from one of the best universities in Germany. HsKA has sent over their best academicians to audit and facilitate the effective transfer of knowledge in this double degree programme.

To another extent, our university's role in international networking has been further enhanced with several Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and Agreement (MoA) signed between UMP and universities in China and Germany. I have every confidence that these international collaborations will additionally advance Malaysia's vision to become an excellent international education hub.

Another equally important aspect that will put our university and country on the world map is research activity. Ever since its foundation, UMP has always given top priority to research activity and innovation to help explore the discovery of new knowledge and its commercialization potential, which will eventually bolster the nation's productivity and prosperity. To date and undoubtedly, UMP researchers have been recognized to contribute to the university's success and the country's innovative aspirations.

Happy reading to all!

**Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim**

## DATO' SRI ABDUL AZIZ: CHART OUR OWN TRACK TO EXCELLENCE

By: Mohd R Jamaludin



“We can chart our own track to excellence,” was the firm stance made by Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman, one of the directors on the board of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP).

“We do not necessarily have to be on their list. We can set our own benchmarks,” remarked Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz further in a recent exclusive personal interview with the Publication & Graphics Unit of UMP's Vice-Chancellor's Office at the Hyatt Regency in Kuantan, Pahang.

He was responding to a query on his views on the outcome that UMP did not make the cut in the Top 18 universities in the country.

*“Universiti Malaysia Pahang does not need to tread on the same route as other IPTAs had in order to excel”*

Earlier in July, the Ministry of Higher Education announced a list of 18 top universities, both public and private institutions of higher learning, in Malaysia. Aspiring to be a world-class, competent-based university, UMP, however, did not make it.

The director's remarks brought the writer back through time when UMP's Chairman, Dato' Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib, said in a similar exclusive interview over six months ago that he was confident the aspiration was achievable, but wanted the university to touch base with reality.

“UMP has to achieve this distinguished standing in gradual stages. The immediate goal is to be the preferred tertiary education provider in the East Coast of Peninsular. Then, we can go on to national, regional and global,” added the Chairman.

On that note, Dato' Sri Abdul Aziz emphasized that the outcome of not making into the Top 18 list should spur and challenge UMP to improve. “The hardwork put in will not go to waste, but will certainly leave footprints for future generations to recognize.”

One instance, he acknowledged, the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim, has shown high-spirited dedication towards internationalization of the university, which was initiated eight years ago.

Hard evidence to substantiate the

recognition were the many memoranda of understanding (MoU) and agreement (MoA) signed between UMP and several foreign universities – the latest being the double degree programme in Mechatronics, offered in collaboration with Germany's Hochschule Karlsruhe Technic Und Wirtschaft (HsKA) Karlsruhe University of Applied Science and the German-Malaysian Institute. Through this MoU, UMP is at the forefront of local public institutions of higher learning in offering high quality engineering undergraduate programme, modelled after Germany's tertiary curriculum.

The university also saw MoU signed with multinational companies, like IBM Malaysia Bhd, to facilitate information communication technology network services, training programmes and internships, to both students and lecturers alike.

“With more multinational companies and industries setting a firm foothold in Pahang, in areas like Gambang, Gebeng and Pekan, the university will certainly be making its mark in realizing the State's ambition to become the East Coast Education Corridor.”

Internationalization does not only mean going abroad, but also, attracting foreigners to come over. In 2009, UMP opened its doors to the first batch of 37 international undergraduates from China, who enrolled for the six-month English Intensive Preparatory Programme at the university.



*“All UMP has to do is find its niche in the academia, drive hard to realize its vision and become the best at what it does best”*



“UMP is a young university, but it is progressing in leaps and bounds,” said Dato’ Sri Abdul Aziz. “One fine example is that we are the first local public institution of higher learning to be able to purchase our own land and infrastructures, with the stewardship of UMP Holdings Sdn Bhd (UMPH).

“With UMPH, the university can now move forward to aggressively source our own financial means to meet the 30 percent funding criteria set by the Government.”

Another benchmark that the university can embark on is creating its own niche or specialty, stressed the Director.

“Engineering programme per se is very dry. But, if we can combine engineering with studies on humanity, then we can certainly stand out in the crowd of engineering and technology universities in the country,” he said, quoting the branding created by International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) in offering academic programmes with religious foundations.

“That said, UMP needs to expand its humanity studies programme – languages for example, like Japanese and German, where engineering prowess are evident. Consequently, we may have to add Chinese as well, as the economic forces are moving in that direction. “Combining engineering and humanity will make UMP graduates holistic, and

that advantage will probably make them more employable and better marketable.

“Another avenue that UMP can go for is twinning programme. Collaborations and double degree programmes with Germany, Japan, South Korea and the United States will certainly set the university apart from the typical rest.

“Building on such twinning programmes could eventually make UMP’s name be known as synonymous with precision-based engineering, just like the Germans’.

“Another segment that we cannot overlook is having our PhD-holders teaching staff to drive the university’s research & development and commercialization activities into high gear.

“We do not necessarily need to rely on and pinch lecturers from other universities. We need to have a different vision, and that is to identify overseas-bound excellent students who will eventually come home to become UMP’s faculty. We do not need to wait until their graduation in order to select the best.

“With our own benchmarking, through the ideas highlighted above, I believe, we can ultimately become the best at what we do best.”

#### Factbox

Dato’ Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman is one of the current member board of directors of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP). He also sits on the board of UMP’s wholly-owned subsidiary – as Chairman of UMP Holdings Sdn. Bhd.

Dato’ Sri Abdul Aziz holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Subsequent to his graduation, he stayed on in Down Under for a three-year stint at PricewaterhouseCoopers (*then known as Price Waterhouse & Co.*)

Returning to his homeland, Dato’ Sri Abdul Aziz took on the position of an Audit & Finance Manager with the country’s flag-carrier, Malaysia Airlines System. Moving up to the top rung of the corporate scene, he became the Managing Director of Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Bhd.

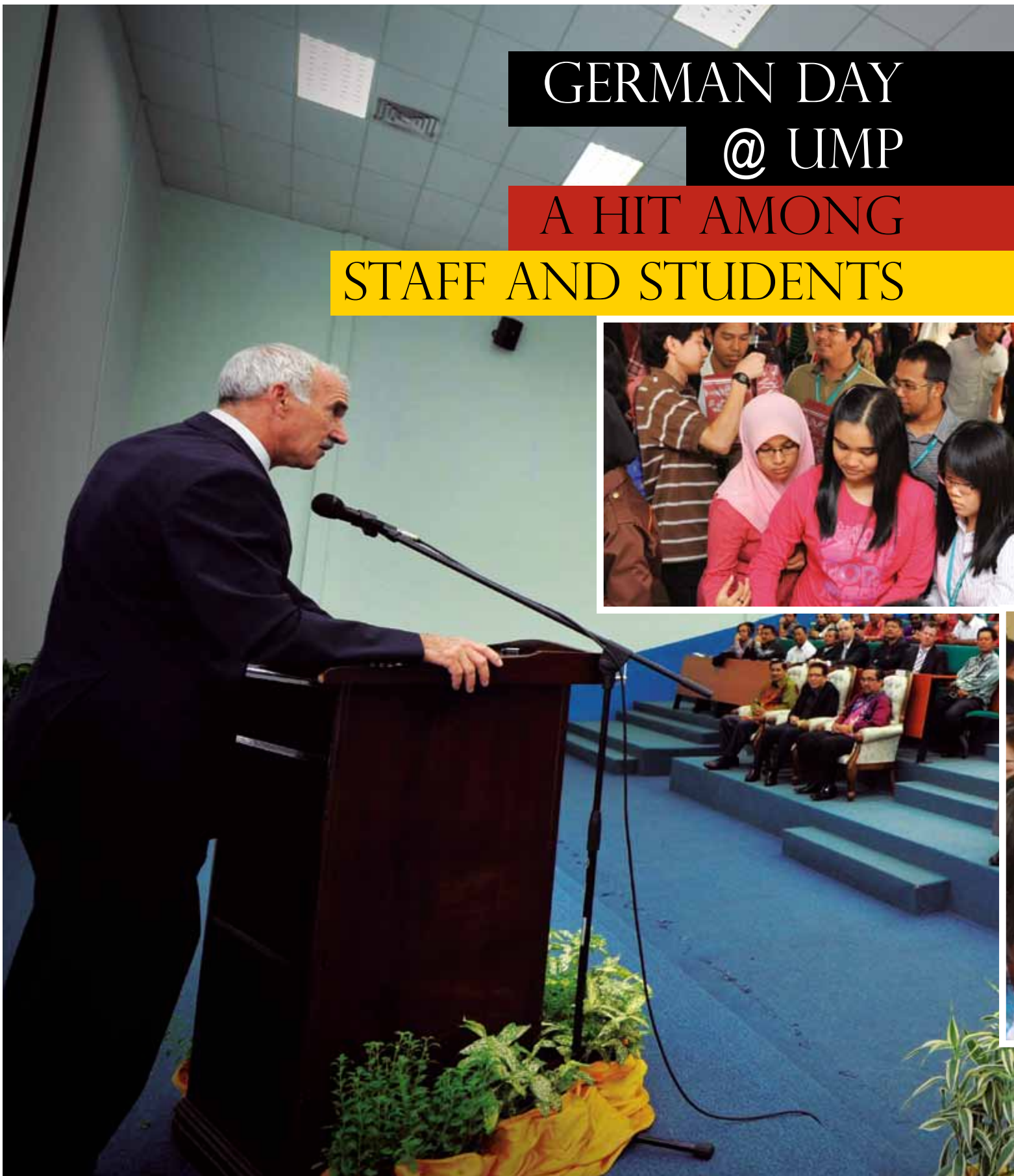
Dato’ Sri Abdul Aziz also serves as a director in several private limited companies and government-linked organizations in his colourful career span, including Far East Holdings Bhd, Felda Holdings Bhd, Mentiga Corp Bhd, Malaysia Timber Industry Board, Pahang State Development Board and Malaysian Association of Hotels.

His foray into public life as a politician began when Malaysia’s 6<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister, Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, assumed the Pahang State Chief Executive position between the years of 1982 and 1986. Dato’ Sri Abdul Aziz’s political career blossomed and he was elected as the State’s Deputy Chief Executive during the three-term helm of Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob – who is now the Governor of Malacca.

*The writer was a former Journalist with The Business Times (Malaysia) and a Sub-Editor with The Borneo Bulletin (Brunei Darussalam). The above article is an English extraction of the interview conducted by the Publication & Graphics Unit of the Vice-Chancellor’s Office of Universiti Malaysia Pahang – which the writer was privileged to attend and participate.*

# GERMAN DAY @ UMP

## A HIT AMONG STAFF AND STUDENTS





**T**he first ever “German Day @ UMP programme saw overwhelming response when more than 2,000 students thronged the venue of the event at the Academic Block W on July 15, 2010 recently.



According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, the German Day, organised in collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, endeavoured not only to strengthen the University’s international networking, but more importantly, to lend exposure to the students of the many German companies and organisations operating in Malaysia.

“Students will have the opportunity to explore research activities, postgraduate studies as well as industrial trainings available in Germany,” said Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir.

“Students who are interested in pursuing employment abroad will also get the chance to procure detailed information during this one-day programme” added the Vice-Chancellor.



Meanwhile, Germany Ambassador to Malaysia, Dr Gunter Gruber said, apart from getting to know the country through tourism, this programme will raise awareness among students of the German culture and language directly through the participating companies. Among them are Q-Cells, Elektrisola, BASF-Petronas, Mercedes, Siemens, SGL Carbon and DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

Apart from the talk session and exhibition, other activities during the one-day programme were movie screening by Goethe Institut Kuala Lumpur and Lucky Draw with prizes sponsored by the embassy and participating companies.

Also present at the launching ceremony of the German Day were UMP Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato’ Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus; Director of the International Office, Dr. Wan Norlidah Al-Qadri; and the delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany Embassy in Malaysia.



# UMP: FIRST TO OFFER GERMAN-MODELLED ENGINEERING PROGRAMME

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) is, again, at the forefront when it comes to offering high quality engineering undergraduate programme – with the latest modelled after Germany’s tertiary curriculum – said the Minister of Higher Education, Dato’ Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, at the official opening of the University-Industry Forum 2010 recently.

“The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sealed between UMP and Germany’s Hochschule Karlsruhe Technic Und Wirtschaft (HsKA) Karlsruhe University of Applied Science, will be both an aspiration as well as a foundation in drawing up UMP’s 2011-2015 Strategic Planning,” said Dato’ Seri Mohamed Khaled.

“Furthermore, the university’s MoUs with IBM Malaysia Bhd and HeiTech Padu Bhd have boosted the number of Computer Science & Software Engineering graduates with knowledge and skills in System Z, which in turn, has helped reduce the country’s dependency on foreign technocrats,” the minister added.

“The importance of establishing an impactful collaboration between universities and industries has been highlighted on many occasions by the Ministry of Higher Education, and especially emphasized in the National Higher Education Strategic Planning. Universities which fail to fulfil this particular Key Performance Index will have a lot of explaining to do.



At the signing ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim sealed his signature for UMP, whilst HsKA was represented by its President, Professor Dr Karl-Heinz Meisel; and the German-Malaysian Institute by its Managing Director, Yusoff Mohd Sahir.

Present to witness the signing ceremony were UMP’s Board of Directors’ Chairman, Dato’ Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib; and the Federal Republic of German Ambassador, Dr Guenter Gruber.

The same ceremony also saw two more MoUs signed with UMP – Managing Director Ramanathan Sathiamutty signed on behalf IBM Malaysia; while Senior Vice-President of Corporate Services Ahmad Abdul Ghani on behalf of HeiTech Padu.

According to Ramanathan, a strong university-industry relationship will ultimately produce a creative and competitive graduate – one who has honed capabilities of applying the technology

acquired in the university to meet industrial demands.

“To develop this intended close tie, HeiTech Padu, will do its share to provide facilities like network services, training programmes and internships, to both students and lecturers alike,” said Ahmad.

“The university, in turn, has welcomed our IT specialists to become guest lecturers at UMP. Through this promising collaboration, HeiTech Padu foresees qualified and skilled UMP graduates being absorbed into our employment programme,” he added.

This year’s University-Industry Forum, themed “Managing Performance for Productive University-Industry Collaborations”, was held on May 27 at the MS Garden Hotel in Kuantan, Pahang.

“This University-Industry Forum is truly timely. The World Competitiveness Yearbook 2010, published recently by The Institute for Management Development, revealed that Malaysia’s competitive ranking has soared to No. 9, compared to 18<sup>th</sup> a year ago,” said Dato’ Seri Mohamed Khaled.

Meanwhile, in his keynote address at the forum, Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir said the university has taken the initiative to explore new dimensions in the university-industry relationship in its pursuit to fulfil various industrial requirements.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, a forum



*The importance of establishing an impactful collaboration between universities and industries has been highlighted on many occasions by the Ministry of Higher Education, and especially emphasized in the National Higher Education Strategic Planning*

of this nature is an effective discourse to garner support from industries to help the university implement industry-friendly teaching methods as well as to pinpoint collaboration opportunities through research activities, consultancies and short-term courses.

“This year’s forum will go down in history as one that pools together a record 350 academicians and industry specialists, who are congregating on the direction of the university-industry relationship in Malaysia,” Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir highlighted.

Panelists for “The Way Forward” forum were Datin Paduka Professor Dr Khatijah Mohd Yusoff, Deputy Secretary (Science) from the Ministry of Science, Technology

& Innovation; Aminar Rashid Salleh, Managing Director of Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua Sdn Bhd; and Dato’ Dr. Ir Andy KH Seo, Vice-President of The Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers.

Meanwhile, Datuk Ir (Dr) Ahmad Zaidee Laidin, Vice-President for Malaysia’s Science Academy facilitated the forum on “International Success Stories” with world-renowned panelists like Mohamed Yassin, Director of United Nation University; Professor Dr Karl-Heinz Meisel, President of HsKA; Professor Dr Dharma de Silva from the International Business & Management, Barton School of Business, Wichita State University; and Professor Dr. Jei-Fu Shaw, President of National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan.



# Over 15,000 Flock to Education Carnival at UMP

Over 15,000 people thronged the National Higher Education Carnival, held for two days on March 20-21, 2010, at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) in Kuantan, Pahang.

Tagged “Jom Masuk U”, the carnival saw lively participation from both public and private institutions of higher learning, government agencies and financial institutions, and an overwhelming response from would-be university students, especially those from out of town.

Held at UMP’s Technology & Innovation Park from 9am to 6pm, there were over 100 exhibition booths for visitors – especially students, school

leavers, parents and teachers – to stop over.

According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim, the main objective of the carnival was to disseminate accurate information on and promote tertiary education opportunities in local institutions of higher learning.

“The carnival is a One-Stop Centre as well as an annual Outreach Programme conducted by the Ministry of Higher Education to foster a closer tie and approach with the local community,” said the Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir welcomed students, parents, teachers and the local community at large to obtain accurate information on the various opportunities available in pursuing tertiary education at local institutions of higher learning, polytechnics and community colleges; on accreditation listing; as well as on financial means, for graduates of Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) and Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM), or their equivalents.



*“The carnival is a One-Stop Centre as well as an annual Outreach Programme conducted by the Ministry of Higher Education to foster a closer tie and approach with the local community” – Vice-Chancellor*



“Those who wish to secure university enrolment will also be able to submit their applications online throughout the two-day carnival.

“Aside from exhibition and information dissemination, the carnival has organized several other activities, including quiz, forum, consultancy and counselling sessions, and online application,” he said.

“We certainly hope the forum conducted with several counselling teachers will be able to enlighten interested secondary school students on the various programmes available at the carnival,” he added.

“Indirectly, these students and their parents will be able to procure detailed information and immediate response from the exhibitors on the various undergraduate programmes offered at their respective institutions.

“I would like to remind students, who wish to pursue further studies at the tertiary level, to grab this golden opportunity as such education fair will conclude next week at the Stadium Indra Mulia in Ipoh, Perak.”

Meanwhile, Deputy Director of the Department of Higher Education, Professor Dr Rujhan Mustafa, said his department foresaw as many as 20,000 people visiting the carnival at UMP this time around, up almost 25 per cent from the one held last year.

“Students will use this occasion to review whether their applications have been successful or otherwise, especially as the March 30 deadline is just around the corner.”

One of the visitors, Dolmat Yaakub, from Taman Inderapura in Kuantan, concurred that such carnival facilitates so much convenience for SPM graduates to decide on their next educational moves. “It is truly a one-stop centre for my children to obtain information from the various local institutions of higher learning.”

At the carnival, UMP also initiated collaborations with the Department of Orang Asli Affairs and the university’s Women Association to conduct a Career Talk for the Orang Asli students as well as to assist them in applying for enrol





*According to Tan Sri Dr Tengku Mahaleel, organizations can only achieve 40 percent of qualified assessment of the capabilities of a candidate through interviews. To which extent, he adds, five years are actually the better time-frame to evaluate the optimum competency and efficiency of an employee*



The Vice-Chancellor continued to explain that the essence of strategic management of human resources was all about charting career development, and it all began with the process of an employee intake.

He highlighted that an effective interview method could actually help filter the right competent candidate to fulfill an organizational need.

“In this inaugural lecture, Tan Sri Dr. Tengku Mahaleel will share with us his perspectives on human resources. Needless to mention, Tan Sri Dr. Tengku Mahaleel is a world-renowned corporate figure and is backed with vast experience, among which his careers include working in Nestle, Shell Malaysia and helming our national car manufacturer, Proton Holdings Bhd.,” remarked Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing

**U**niversiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) was thrilled when an admirable national corporate figure, Tan Sri Dr. Tengku Mahaleel Tengku Ariff, was gracious to inaugurate the National Public Lecture – held for the first time at the university –

In his opening address, UMP Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim, said the National Public Lecture programme

would be the setting stage to field well-known industrial figures to share their experience and expertise with UMP and the local community at large.

“And today, we are honored with the presence of Tan Sri Dr Tengku Mahaleel, who will share his views on “Strategic Management of Human Resources”. Mind you, Tan Sri Dr. Tengku Mahaleel is no stranger to the university, as he was the first chairman appointed to UMP’s board of directors.



# TENGGU TAN SRI DR MAHALEEL INAUGURATES UMP'S NATIONAL PUBLIC LECTURE



Mohd Nasir, as he handed over the podium to the guest speaker.

According to Tan Sri Dr. Tengku Mahaleel, organizations could only achieve 40 percent of qualified assessment of the capabilities of a candidate through interviews. To which extent, he added, five years were actually the better time-frame to evaluate the optimum competency and efficiency of an employee.

At the closing of the programme, the Coordinating Chairman cum Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato' Dr Sabarudin Mohd, took the opportunity to express his hopes that the National Public Lecture advocated by his department would continue to receive undivided support and commitment



from both governmental and industrial agencies to spur inspirations to the university's and local communities.

Over 800 participants attended the inaugural lecture, including university staff, academicians, students and representatives from high schools

and agencies from around Pahang. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus; Registrar, Mustafa Ibrahim; and the university's senior management team, were also present.

Research &  
Innovation



*ITEX 2010 saw a 100 percent success for UMP's eight research products when the university took home three gold medals and five silver.*

## UMP RESEARCHER WINS WIPO BEST WOMEN INVENTOR'S SPECIAL AWARD AT ITEX 2010

Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Dr. Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim was the university's first female researcher to be honored with a Special Award at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Best Women Inventor, held concurrently during the 21<sup>st</sup> International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition 2010 (ITEX 2010) at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre on May 14-16 recently.

Dr. Mimi Sakinah won the award through her project "Sustainable Production of Sorbitol from Biomass Using Green Technology Approach". The lecturer from Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) also won a gold medal through another research product – which is capable of generating sorbitol from sawdust.

UMP also coveted two more gold medals at the exhibition through Dr. Zularisam Abdul Wahid's "Development of Clean Renewable Fuel from Wastewater towards a Sustainable Energy Source Using Green Technology Approach: HEC2"; and Norashikin Mat Zain's "Novel Green, Economical and Environmentally Friendly Biodegradable Composite Films from Caladium". All three researchers hailed from the same faculty.

Dr. Zularisam's research product is capable of producing gas from wastewater using solar energy while Norashikin's uses processed sweet potato to produce bio-degradable plastic bag.





ITEX 2010 saw a 100 percent success for UMP's eight research products when the university took home three gold medals and five silver.

Research products from UMP's Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA) took home three of the five silver medals through Dr. Anwar Ahmad's "Activated Sludge Biomass to Remove Pollutants from Wastewater"; Youventharan Duraisamy's "Peat Sampler with Built-In Extruder (PEATER)"; and Associate Professor Dr. Abdurahman Hamid Nour's "A Novel Process of Membrane Anaerobic System in Treating Palm Oil Mill Effluent".

The other two silver medals were Rohana Abdul Karim's "Pineapple Maturity Inspection Using Colour Identification" from the Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (FKEE); and Associate Professor Dr. Hayder A Abdul Bari's "Formulation of New Drag Reducing Agent Using Natural Mucilage Extracted

from Hibiscus Rosa-sinensis Linn Leaves" from FKKSA.

At the exhibition, UMP's booth also took the spotlight, winning second place in the Best Exhibition Booth competition, in the category of "54 square feet and above".

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, lauded the prestigious award and medals conferred on the university, and hoped that these achievements would further inspire UMP's lecturers to continue producing research products, which could be commercialized for the benefit of all.

At the official opening of ITEX 2010, Minister of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), Datuk Dr. Maximus Ongkili, said, "Malaysia has to focus on holistic innovation to help boost the country's economy to a higher level.

"There is neither an ending nor a limit to how much we can innovate, and the

opportunities are abundant for our citizens to be creative and innovative," the minister said.

"Our country depends on the contributions of her citizens to achieve the aspiration to turn Malaysia into a high-income economy.

"Under the 9<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan, the Government has allocated a sum of RM2.889 billion to implement 4,300 projects with emphasis in research and development, as well as technology and innovation," he added.

ITEX 2010 saw 30 percent local participation from 50 organizations, comprising institutions of higher learning, research institutions, corporations and private individuals, covering an exhibition of 673 inventions in 24 categories. Themed "Creativity: The Road to Innovative Economy", this year's ITEX also saw participation of researchers from Hong Kong, Iran, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

# 'MATAHARI' RISES ON UMP'S HORIZON



Over time, there has been a dramatic increase in the active involvement of women in the economic and administrative sectors, so much so, it demands this gender to become ever more prepared in meeting the challenges of the day, said Pahang's Sultanah, Her Royal Highness Tunku Hajjah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah Binti Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj, at the launching ceremony of Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Women Association – fondly known as “MATAHARI” – at the university's Sports Complex recently.

“This positive development should be seen as a qualified

acknowledgment of both the merit and quality of women's contributions – especially of those holding high-level positions in policy-building and decision-making in various organizations,” said Tunku Hajjah Azizah.

“The founding of MATAHARI reflects an increasing awareness among the women at UMP to





come together to contribute to the society at large, and specifically, to the university's community. In this sense, MATAHARI has to play that vital role in stimulating volunteerism," Her Royal Highness emphasized.

Meanwhile, according to MATAHARI President, Dr. Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim, "Realizing the significant roles that MATAHARI can play in community development, the association has taken the initiative to collaborate with UMP's Centre for Continuing Education & Professional Development (CENFED) to conduct life-long educational programmes.

"We are also planning to carry out several programmes, pooling our resources with the cooperation of the

university's Registrar, and Pahang State Departments of Orang Asli Welfare (JHEOA), Community Development and Women's Development.

"In partnership with UMP's Academic Management Division and Registrar, as well as JHEOA, the association has successfully help enrolled 130 Orang Asli into the university's academic programmes during the recently held East Coast's National Higher Education Carnival," Dr. Mimi Sakinah highlighted.

On the sideline and in conjunction with the launching of MATAHARI, the university also seized the opportunity of the Sultanah's presence to celebrate Her Royal Highness' success, in being conferred the "Special Jury Prize Gourmand World Cook Book

Awards", for her book entitled "Buku Air Tangan Masakan Tradisional Pahang", which took part in the international cookbook exhibition held in Paris, France, late last year.

Present to witness the official launching and the celebration were Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah; UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim; Pahang State Secretary, Dato' Muhammad Safian Ismail and Committee Chairman of State Tourism, Arts & Heritage, Dato' Shafik Fauzan Shariff.

Activities held for that ceremonious day included Blood Donation Campaign, "Tapau Mania" Campaign (a promotional effort urging people to reduce the usage of plastic bags), Health Talks and carnival product sales.

The apex of the day's event was "MATAHARI Charity Concert 2010", which saw performances from the country's well-known artistes like Amy Search, and Faizal Tahir and Farah from Akademi Fantasia 2. Over 2,000 fans thronged the Sports Complex to watch the concert.



- ▶ *Pekan Review targets not only to enhance international awareness of UMP, but at the same time, to help promote the town Pekan*



# UMP LAUNCHES ENGLISH BULLETIN, PROMOTES PEKAN NAME

In conjunction with Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Cendekia Bitara Award night, the university did a soft launch of its first English Bulletin – *Pekan Review* – at the Bukit Gambang Resort City on May 3.

In its debut issue, the bulletin highlighted UMP's outstanding achievements and accomplishments in the fields of academic, research and development, innovation, collaboration and internationalization, at both national and global levels.

Published by the Publication & Graphics Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office (PNC) and launched by the Pahang Menteri Besar, Dato' Sri Adnan Yaakob, *Pekan Review* will see print twice a year.

According to the bulletin's Editor-in-Chief, Abdul Rahman Safie, *Pekan Review* not only wishes to share UMP's success stories with Malaysians, but more importantly, to fulfill the university's aspiration of "Bridging UMP to the world community" – so goes its tagline.

Abdul Rahman, who is also a Deputy Registrar at PNC, said the time is right for UMP to produce an English bulletin, after publishing its Malay version, *Create*, for the last six years.

"*Pekan Review* targets not only to enhance international awareness of UMP, but at the same time to help promote the town Pekan – where the university will be permanently relocated to," said the Chief Editor, adding that the bulletin will be circulated to the Malaysian embassies and foreign universities abroad.

"Two of UMP's faculties, namely the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and the Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, have shifted to Pekan in July last year."

Earmarked as one of the main communication channels to disseminate information to the university's diverse international community, the publication is also seen as a continuous effort to foster a closer bond as well as a source of reference for UMP's trustholders and external agencies, explained Abdul Rahman.





## OUTSTANDING UMP RESEARCHERS, LECTURERS GET RM160K CASH AWARDS

- ▶ *This award recognizes the efficient and effective teaching method taught by lecturers in the field of engineering, applied and social sciences.*

▶▶ **T**hirteen categories of outstanding Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) researchers and lecturers collectively took home RM160,000 cash prizes at the Cendekia Bitara 2009 Award ceremony held at the Bukit Gambang Resort City in early May.

Themed “Green Technology for a Sustainable World”, the second annual ceremony was graced by Pahang Chief Minister, Dato’ Sri Adnan Yaakob. Also present were UMP’s Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dato’ Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib; and UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim.

The ceremony was organized to celebrate achievements in the acculturation of innovation, creativity and research, as well as a show of appreciation to outstanding researchers and lecturers who have brought fame to the university. The Cendekia Bitara ceremony also saw the soft launch of the university’s first edition of English bulletin, Pekan Review.

According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, the university will ensure that each research conducted is of high quality, complies with international



standards and has every potential of commercialization.

“The empowerment of biotechnology, for example, has seen UMP receiving RM500,000 in incentive grants from Malaysia Biotechnology Corporation – under the programme of Bionexus Partners – which has further strengthened the strategic cooperation between the university and the biotechnology industry,” said Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir.

“To further stimulate research activity, a centralized laboratory is already in the making; with an additional RM10 million allocation for the procurement

of equipment and upgrading of laboratory facilities,” he added.

Highlighting the concept of *Cendekia Bitara*, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir said the word *Cendekia* is defined as an intellectual person or group of persons, while *Bitara* denotes unrivalled expertise.

“Hence, such an award would mean the recipient has been recognized to have achieved unrivalled intellectual excellence in his field of expertise,” he emphasized.

“This year’s ceremony will also record the university’s appreciation with a





debut award to Outstanding Lecturers in terms of teaching and learning.

"This award recognizes the efficient and effective teaching method taught by lecturers in the field of engineering, applied and social sciences," he added.

Meanwhile, Dean of Faculty of Science & Technology Industry cum Programme Chairman, Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff, further explained that the Cendekia Bitara 2009 Award ceremony is a prestigious acknowledgment of research, publication, innovative and creative works, which reflected excellent mastery of field.

At the ceremony, Dato' Sri Adnan presented the prizes to recipients of seven categories of Cendekia Bitara – namely for Role Model; Publication (Journal); Publication (Book); Research Product; Creativity; Quality; and Patent – and six Appreciation awards – namely for Publication (Journal); Publication (Book); Research Product; Creativity; Quality; and Patent.

In the category of Research Product, Associate Professor Dr Hayder A Abdul Bari from the Faculty of Chemical Engineering & Natural Resources (FKKSA) and Zamzuri Hamedon from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth

Resources (FKASA) each took home RM19,000 cash prize and certificate of appreciation. Another lecturer from FKKSA, Norashikin Mat Zain, took home RM 18,000 and certificate.

Meanwhile, Munira Abdul Razak from the Centre of Modern Languages & Human Sciences and Associate Professor Ir Adnan Zulkiple from FKASA covered the Outstanding Lecturer award for the categories of Literature & Social Science and Engineering, respectively. They each took home RM5000 cash prize, certificate of appreciation and plaque.

# UMP covets 7 medals, Best Booth at MTE 2010



**U**niversiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) coveted two gold, two silver and three bronze medals at the 9<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE 2010) held at the Putra World Trade Centre on February 4-6 recently.

UMP took home the first gold through Dr. Hayder A Abdul Bari – a lecturer from the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) – with his research product entitled “Formulation of a New Multipurpose Grease Using Bleaching Earth and Cooking Oil Wastes (From Waste to Wealth)”.

Dr. Hayder’s research resulted in the production of a multipurpose grease – applicable for use in many industrial machinery, such as those in automotive, aviation and shipping – which is, by far, more cost-effective than the ones currently found in the market.

Adding to his gold, Dr. Hayder also won a silver medal for his project called “Paddy Husk Wastes as a New Natural Solid Flow Improver for Turbulent Liquid Flow in Pipelines”. In this project, Dr. Hayder conducted an experiment using paddy husk as a friction-reducing agent when transporting crude oil and

other minerals through the pipelines.

The university’s other gold medalist was Youventharan Duraisamy from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA). The lecturer’s research product, entitled “Tropical Peat Sampler with Built-in Extruder (TROPITER)”, is a construction industry’s must-have – the equipment samples soil strength to determine whether a building can be erected on it.

UMP’s Dean of Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering & Technology Management, Professor Dr. Ahmad Othman, took home the second silver medal with his project called “Method for Assessing an Organization, or an Individual, using Technology Absorptive Matrix Software (TAMs) for Technology Transfer Purposes”.

Professor Dr. Ahmad invented such innovative software to benefit individuals and organizations who are seeking an effective method of technology transfer. The software allows individuals and organizations alike to access information from multiple locations.

Meanwhile, UMP’s bronze medals came from lecturers Kumaran Kadirgama

► *UMP covets two gold, two silver and three bronze medals at the 9<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Technology Expo*



from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FKM); Dr. Iqbal Ahmed from FKKSA; and Dr. Noraziah Ahmad from the Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKKP).

The university also took the spotlight when it won first place in the Best Booth competition, in the bare-space category. In the previous MTE held on February 19-21, 2009, UMP won the same Best Booth plus three gold, two silver and seven bronze medals.

MTE 2010 exhibited 499 research products from 65 participants, comprising local government agencies, institutions of higher learning and schools, as well as foreign participations from Poland, Singapore, South Korea, Spain and Taiwan.



# UNDERGRADUATES URGED TO SHARPEN SOFT SKILLS, RISE TO EXCELLENCE

The Minister of Higher Education, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled 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.

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 a tremendous sum is allocated by the Government 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 were projected to enroll for the bachelor's programmes, while the balance 300 for the



diploma programme.

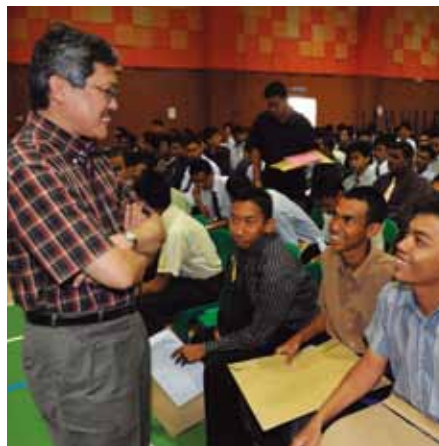
Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir further highlighted that an orientation week like MINDS is held at the beginning of a new semester to allow students to familiarize themselves, not only with the infrastructural surroundings, but also to become acquainted with fellow students and senior student-facilitators.

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

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 (HsKA).

*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*



“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.”

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

# 800 CELEBRATE CNY JOINT CELEBRATION

*"The joint CNY celebration helps introduce UMP to the general public, showcases students' talents and fosters closer interactions between students and the surrounding communities"*



Over 800 people from all walks of life attended the Chap Goh Mei dinner, jointly organized by the Chinese Cultural Association, and Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Department of Student Affairs & Alumni, held at the Mexica Seafood Restaurant in Kuantan on February 28.

The dinner was held in celebration of the Prime Minister's conceptualized 1Malaysia-Chinese New Year (CNY).

According to the Programme Coordinator, Wong Kok Keen, the dinner was a cheerful showcase of Malaysian unity, spiced up with the musical performances of UMP Orchestra and cultural dances by students of various ethnicities, local and foreign. The night was further livened up with medley of songs and the staging of a drama and the 1Malaysia cultural dance.

"Earlier in the day, the Association also took the opportunity to hold banner paintings, calligraphy competitions, as well as quizzes,



for primary and secondary school students from around Kuantan, all in the spirit of “1 Celebration 1 Family”, said Wong.

A colouring competition was held at UMP’s Main Lecture Hall 1, where Tengku Puteri Jihan Khalsom Athiyatullah, 7, the daughter of Pahang Royal Consort, Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah, took part, representing Kuantan Methodist Girls’ School.

“This joint CNY celebration has also helped introduce UMP to the general public, showcased students’ talents and fostered closer interactions between students and

the surrounding communities,” Wong added.

Jamie Khoo Hui Sun, 33, from Kuantan said that the celebration simply shows that UMP students are well-rounded undergraduates who could hold racial and religious programmes regardless of their diversified cultural backgrounds.

A student from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering from UMP’s Pekan Campus, Sigithasan Nagantheram, could not contain his jubilation at being able to join in the CNY celebration and witness the merriments among people of various races all in one

spot.

Prizes for the day’s competitions were presented by the Head of Deputy Registrars, from UMP’s Department of Research & Innovation, Datin Fazia Ali. She is also the wife of UMP’s Vice-Chancellor.

Also present at the dinner celebration were UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim; Teruntum State Executive Councillor, Chang Hong Seong; and UMP’s senior management team.

# UMP bags Green Technology Award at NRIC2010

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) coveted a gold medal and the “Sustainable Green Technology” award at the National Research & Innovation Competition (NRIC2010) held at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang, recently.

Two young researchers from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA), Thilagawathi Batumalai and Nur Fitriah Isa, took home the medal and award along with RM3,000 cash, a trophy and certificates of appreciation vide their invention entitled “*Investigation on the usage of Allium Cepa (onion) as Natural Corrosion Inhibitor for Industrial Chill*

*Wastewater System*”.

The research, supervised by FKASA lecturers, Suryati Sulaiman and Abdul Syukor Abdul Razak, saw the use of skins from large onions – with chemical properties to inhibit corrosion – in the industrial pipes chilling system.

Meanwhile, another student from the Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering, Noridayu Othman, bagged a bronze medal with her project entitled “*Palm Oil Fruit Maturity Detection System*”.

Also under the spotlight at the NRIC2010 was a disabled student, Siti Hawa Apandi, with her invention called “Online Registration for Orang

Kurang Upaya (OKU)”.

Overall, the NRIC was a platform for many young scientists to be creative and innovative in churning out their science and technology-based inventions. Such a competition will also help boost participation of graduates in showcasing their talents to contribute to the advancement of science and technology.

UMP’s success in its debut participation is hoped to stimulate interests in the university’s students to pursue a variety of research, which will eventually drive the country’s economy to greater heights.





# COMMUNITY PROGRAMME CAPTURES HEARTS AT KAMPUNG NYENTIL

By: Mohd Norfarhan Mohd Mustafa  
KeHATI Programme Director



The two-hour boat ride, from the jetty of Kuala Medang in Kuala Lipis, will certainly be a life-long treasured experience for 35 Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates, including five international students from Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan.

The university students braved through gushing rapids and rushing current of Sungai Relau to get to a remote village – Kampung Nyentil Pos Lanai – in Kuala Lipis, Pahang Darul Makmur, hearts set to embark on their mission, a community programme called “Kembara Hati Siswa Perdana (KeHATI)”.

The community programme, held for the first time, was launched by its patron, the Pahang State Committee Chairman of the Rural Development & Indigenous People’s Affair, Dato’ Wan Rosdi Wan Ismail.

The KeHATI programme, an initiative by the Secretariat of Pahang Undergraduates (SeMAMPAN), was organized in close collaboration with UMP’s Department of Students’ Affair & Alumni, Pahang State Government, Pahang State Foundation and RISDA.

Other participating agencies and programme sponsors were Mentiga Corp Bhd, Pahang state departments of Community Development, Community Welfare (KEMAS) and Special Affairs, National Board of Community &

Family Development (LPPKN), and the Kuala Lipis District’s Department of Information and Office of Youth & Sports.

The five-day programme took off with the 35 students joining their foster families for their homestay mission. Students were expected to acquaint themselves with their families and to record their collective daily activities for historical reference of their journey and mission at the end of the programme.

For the first three days of the KeHATI programme, the students lined up several activities for village-wide participation, including motivational talks and sporting games for the adults and group workshops for the children.

Other governmental agencies, like KEMAS and LPPKN, also played their roles by stepping in to conduct multiparty activities for the children and women-folks, such as hand massage techniques, facial makeover, blood-check as well as advice on selected health concerns.

Students blended in well and forged close relationships with the village community through jungle trekking and participating in the daily activities of Kg Nyentil indigenous people. They learnt how to fish, make animal-traps, source vegetarian food and identify jungle tracks. At the end of an exhausting day, the students shared a patriotic movie with the village elders, who reminisced



the glorious days of fighting for the independence of then-Tanah Melayu.

A carnival was held on the fourth day of the programme, with activities ranging from sports to coloring and knitting contests. The one-day event also saw a joint exhibition with the Kuala Lipis District Health Office.

During the day, the aspiring future engineers pooled their efforts with the village youths to help construct a communal washroom facility, as well as repair and restore a Takraw court.

Towards the evening, the students and village-folks got together to prepare for a wedding feast, during which they helped out in slaughtering a cow and its cooking preparations. The feast also celebrated the couple's conversion to Islam.

The wedding was accordance with the Islamic teaching and the village-folks

celebrated the union with a Malay cultural dais, complete with its traditional customs. The students were in awe of the close-knit cooperation displayed by the people of Kg Nyentil.

Concluding the eventful mission at the end of the fifth day was a ceremonial closing attended by the Director of the State Department of Indigenous People's Affair, Abdul Wahid Akmal, and the Special Officer to the Pahang Menteri Besar, Mustapa Long.

Before departing the village, the students made one last visit to their foster families' home, exchanging gifts and mementos to remember their time there. They believe they would cherish the cordial bond struck within the five-day programme for the rest of their lives.

According to the KeHATI Programme Director, Mohd Norfarhan Mohd Mustafa, a student from the Faculty of Electronic &

Electrical Engineering, organizing such a programme has given the students new exposures, especially in enhancing their leadership skills.

Mohd Norfarhan's university-mate, Nor Adila Said, from the Faculty of Chemical Engineering & Natural Resources, concurred that she and her friends would not hesitate to lend their support in future programmes of similar nature. The experience they gathered was truly an eye-opener.



# MUHAMMAD NORSHIM DOES UMP PROUD AT NATIONAL BESTARI CHESS CHALLENGE

Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Muhammad Norshim Mohamed Hashim and his teammates – Nurizzudin Ahmad Hussin, Tuan Shahlan Tuan Safie, Abdullah Muhamad Nawi and Mohd Azizul Hafiz Abdul Sani – did the university proud when they collectively bagged RM50,000 cash after securing the top spot at the National Bestari Chess Challenge held at Persada Johor on January 17.

Calling themselves Gempak Team 1, UMP accumulated the highest number of prizes whilst simultaneously breaking the championship's record.

Aside from the cash prize, Gempak Team 1 also took home two trophies, a plaque, and participation and record-breaker certificates.

They also took home the grand prize, a Proton Persona 1.6. The key to the car was handed over to the team leader, Muhammad

Norshim, by the Chairman of KFC Holdings (Malaysia) Bhd, Tan Sri Muhammad Ali Hashim.

KFC Holdings and Johor Corporation jointly organised The Bestari Chess Challenge, aimed at inculcating the spirits of creativity and innovativeness among the country's undergraduates. Such collaboration, also hoped to generate visionary leaders among these undergraduates.

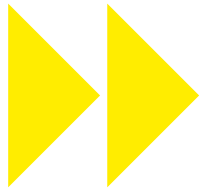
Universiti Teknologi MARA Melaka went home with second place, taking with them a cash prize of RM30 000, a plaque and certificates of participation, while Federal Territory KFC took the third spot with RM20,000 cash, a plaque as well as certificates of participation.

By making Chess a national challenge, it should not be seen as just a game, but more of a platform where undergraduates get acculturated with the entrepreneurial mindset, which could ultimately lead them to an enterprising career path.





# UMP-MIYAZU MoU SET TO BOOST TDM INDUSTRY



*"This collaboration will provide ample opportunities for Miyazu staff to enhance their knowledge and develop their skills through the postgraduate and apprenticeship schemes at UMP"*

In its effort to enhance university-industry collaboration, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Miyazu (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd to further develop the tools, dies and mould (TDM) industry in Malaysia.

The collaboration is expected to boost the local TDM manufacturing industry and minimize the country's dependency on foreign expertise as well as reduce foreign labour intake. Incidentally, this collaboration is also in line with Malaysia's aspiration to expand and enhance her automotive industry.

In his keynote address, UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim, said the collaboration is parallel to the university's approach as a "teaching factory", which emphasized

on a curriculum structured on the aspects of competency and practicality.

"With the sharing of Miyazu's expertise and experience, this university-industry collaboration will provide an edge to our graduates' employment competitiveness, especially in the field of manufacturing engineering," added Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir.

"Furthermore, this collaboration will provide ample opportunities for Miyazu staff to enhance their knowledge and develop their skills through the postgraduate and apprenticeship schemes at UMP.

"Also in the pipeline, the university plans

to engage TDM experts from foreign universities through educational tie-ups with Taiwan's Kaohsiung University of Applied Sciences and South Korea's Seoul National University of Technology and Iwate University," highlighted the Vice-Chancellor.

These collaboration and tie-ups, he added, are UMP's initiatives to fortify the university's expertise in teaching, research and development in TDM.

On the same note, Miyazu Chief Executive Officer, Amrizal Abdul Majid,

*“With the sharing of Miyazu’s expertise and experience, this university-industry collaboration will provide an edge to our graduates’ employment competitiveness, especially in the field of manufacturing engineering” – Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir*



said, aside from providing expertise and equipment, the company is also developing downstream industries to advance TDM in Malaysia. Such development, he believed, would make the country as competitive as Japan and South Korea.

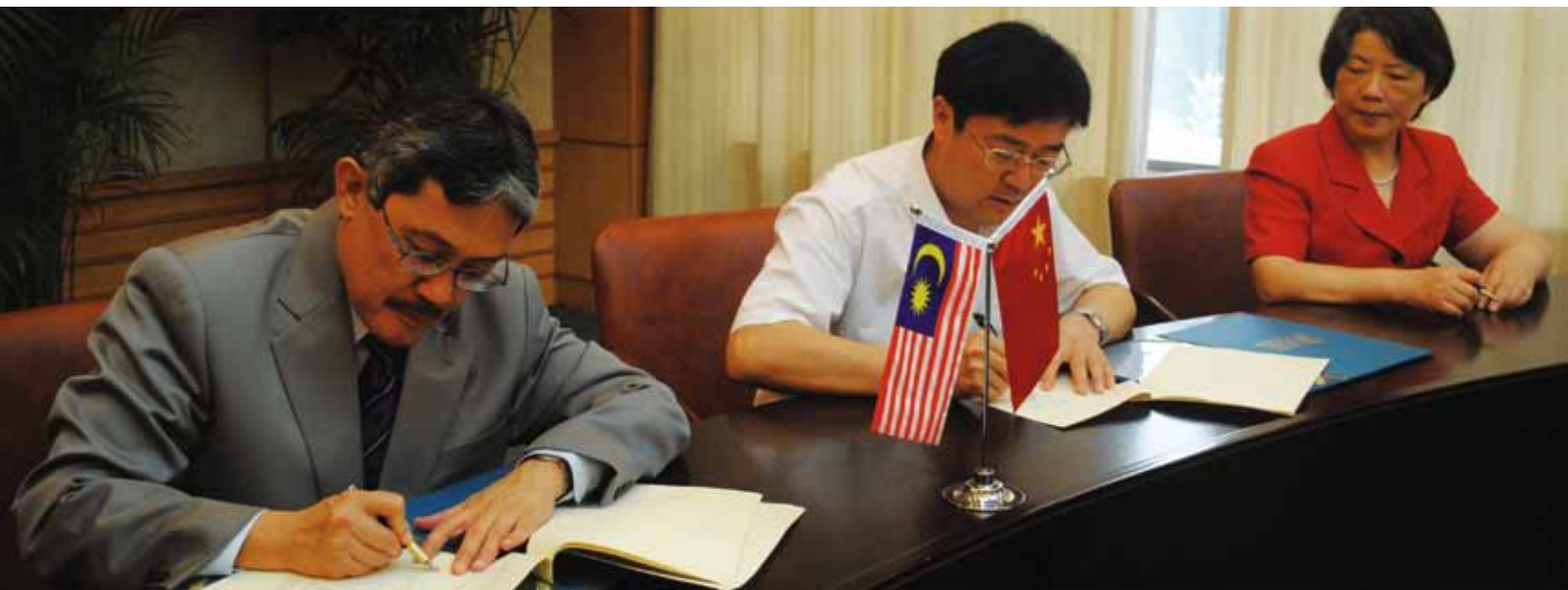
He expressed his hopes that the collaboration would add value to both UMP and Miyazu in their collective efforts to spearhead innovation and creativity in the TDM industry.

At the MoU signing ceremony, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato’ Dr Mohd Rosli Yunus, signed on behalf of UMP whilst Amrizal and Miyazu’s Chief Operating Officer, Shoichi Araya, represented the company.

Also present to witness the exchange of documents were Miyazu’s Director, Dato’ Zainuddin Che Din; and UMP centre directors of Automotive Excellence and University-Industry, Paudzi Abdullah and Professor Dr Shamsuddin Baharin, respectively.



# UMP, SCUN SEAL BILATERAL



**U**niversiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) fortified its international networking when it sealed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China's South-Central University for Nationalities (SCUN) in Beijing, China, on June 1.

At the historic ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim signed for UMP whilst President Professor Lei Zhaohai signed on behalf of SCUN.

The MoU encompassed several future collaborations, with emphasis on students exchange programme, short-term academic staff fellowship, joint research and the creation of a satellite laboratory.

According to Professor Lei, the MoU was an excellent starting point in enhancing

the bilateral relations between SCUN and UMP. "Both universities will have the opportunities to explore a diverse field of cooperation to make this MoU a success."

Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir, too, expressed his sincere hopes that the strategic cooperation would benefit both parties. "We can learn a lot from each other, both in terms of academic and culture."

Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir headed UMP's delegation and was accompanied by the Director of International Office, Dr Wan Norlidah Al-Qadri, and the Assistant Registrar (Policy) from the Vice-Chancellor's Office, Wan Nazrul Helmy Wan Mohd Zain.

After the MoU signing ceremony, the UMP delegation stopped over at SCUN's



# ERAL COLLABORATIONS



Museum of Ethnography before being treated to a sumptuous lunch at the university campus.

In the evening, they were taken on a guided tour to the College of Biological Sciences and the College of Chemical & Material Sciences, for a view of their laboratories and research facilities. Among the laboratories visited were Chromatography, Molecular Pharmacology, Ethno-Medical, Ethno-Pharmacology and the Animal Testing Room, which was part of the main Biotechnology Laboratory for the National Commission of Ethnic Affairs.

The delegation was also privileged to visit the main laboratory for Catalyst & Material Sciences, where facilities like Microscopic Electron Transmission, Spectroscopic Photoelectron X-Ray, Diffraction X-Ray and Nuclear Magnetic Spectrometer were commissioned and funded by the National Commission of Ethnic Affairs and Ministry of Education.

*The MoU encompasses several future collaborations, with emphasis on students exchange programme, short-term academic staff fellowship, joint research and the creation of a satellite laboratory*

The tour ended with a visit to the SCUN Library and a dinner gathering at one of the famous Moslem restaurants in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province.

SCUN was founded in 1951, has 16 faculties and houses 22,000 students from 56 minority ethnic groups, with 10 percent of the populace being Moslems.

# UMP VC: China Poised For Global Dominance

China acknowledges the need for more savings, and the country has also adopted a “look over the horizon” culture, to push itself forward” – Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir

**U**niversiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim, said China is well on the way to becoming a dominant country in the world.

"The world could learn a lot from China – especially on communal traits, which are characterized by strong ambition, strong emphasis on education and the commitment to look after the elderly," said Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir, during his keynote address entitled "Good Governance: Issues & Challenges", to a lecture theatre of Hebei University students.

"China acknowledges the need for more savings, and the country has also adopted a "look over the horizon" culture, to push itself forward," stressed UMP Vice-Chancellor.

On that same note, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir touched on the 1Malaysia concept – "People First, Performance Now" – in relation to good governance, especially on the country's quest to nurture unity among her citizens of diverse ethnics and religions.

The Vice-Chancellor went on to dissect the concept and explained that the "People First" metaphorically

meant the need to focus on areas which the people most wanted and needed; where as "Performance Now" meant conceiving tangible outcomes that can be immediately delivered, seen and felt by the people.

At the conclusion of his Visiting Lecture address, Professor Dato' Daing Nasir firmly made his stance that "justice need not mean equality, but is all about putting the right resources in the right places".

Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir was in China from June 8 to 14 to witness the crystallization of several commitments and collaborations in science, technology and engineering with strategic partners in the country. Accompanying him were UMP's International Office Director, Dr Wan Norlidah Al Qadri; and Assistant Registrar (Policy), Wan Nazrul Helmy Wan Mohd Zain.

"With China's huge population and strength in science and technology, UMP has taken these advantages to strategically positioned itself to collaborate on various subjects, ranging from education, science and technology to economy, with the long-term strategy of socio-economic sustainability."

# Young researcher takes home gold medals, Special Award at ENVEX 2010



**F**ifteen young researchers from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) coveted three gold, two silver and three bronze medals at the Engineering Invention & Innovation Exhibition (ENVEX) 2010, which was jointly organized by Universiti Malaysia

Perlis (UniMAP) and the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), held at UniMAP's Main Hall on April 2-4.

Nurul Atiqah Iliyani Malekke and Shafura Abidi from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA) took home one of the golds with their research entitled "*The Development of Fungus sp. Pycnosporus sanguinis to enhance the Performance of Artificial Bait to Attract Termites from Empty Fruit Bunch as Environmentally-Friendly Pesticide*".

The research, supervised by FKASA lecturer Abdul Syukor Abdul Razak, also won the jury's heart when it bagged CIMA Special Award in Engineering Excellence. Apart from the medal, the two young researchers also took home RM2,000 cash prize, a trophy and certificate of appreciation.





The second gold medal went to Nik Nor Aziati Abdul Aziz and Nurul Afida Makhtar with their research entitled “*Production of Succinic Acid from Glycerol Waste*”, which was supervised by Dr Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaaim from the Faculty of Chemical Engineering & Natural Resources (FKKSA).

Meanwhile, Tang Eng Siang and Chia Khai Tee won the third gold medal with their “*Portable Submerged Membrane Bioreactor for Sustainable Bioreactor for Sustainable Batik Effluent Treatment*” research product, supervised by FKASA's Dr Zularisam Abdul Wahid.

The two silver medals came from FKKSA's researchers Nurul Hidayah Muhamad, Nadira Abdul Aziz, Siti Solehah Ahmad and Rozialfi Alwaner; whilst the three bronze were from FKASA's Law Dah Lit, Norzatulakma Mohd Kodori, Mohd Shahir Zahari and Mohd Fauzi Abdul Ghani and FKKSA's Nor Anira Abdullah.

It is certainly hoped that the medals won by the 15 young researchers through this debut participation will inspire more students to undertake research and stimulate greater interest in innovating inventions for future international level competitions.





# ‘1 MALAYSIA’ PONGGAL FESTIVAL PULLS OVER 1,000 SPECTATORS



Over 1,000 spectators filled up UMP Sports Complex to celebrate the “Sinar Ponggal” Festival on February 8, 2010. Among those cheering on were members of Kuantan Indian Association, Kuantan Bell Youth Club, students from institutions of higher learning such as Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Politeknik Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah and Kolej Institut Kemahiran Ikhtisas Pahang, students from surrounding schools as well as local Indian communities.

The festival – organized by the university’s Arts & Culture Club, Indian Community Committee and the Department of Student Affairs & Alumni (JHEPA), with the cooperation of Kuantan Bell Youth Club – received overwhelming reception and saw the staging of various cultural performances, in line with the “1 Malaysia” concept launched by Prime Minister Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak.

According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Mohd Nasir

Daing Ibrahim, who officiated the festival’s opening in the presence of UMP Registrar, Mustafa Ibrahim and Pahang Bell Club Chairman, Thagaselan, organizing the university-level celebration was meaningful, not only to promote better understanding of the Indian festival, but also to appreciate the diverse ethnics in Malaysia, particularly in UMP.

The Vice-Chancellor was amazed by the high spirits shown by the students organizing the celebration and was further astounded to see the overwhelming response from external parties and local communities.

The Dean of JHEPA, Professor Dr Mohd Ridzuan Nordin, concurred that the first ever 1 Malaysia Ponggal Festival saw better-than-anticipated response. “The celebration of such festival will foster closer ties and promote improved understanding of the many cultures in the country.”

Sharon Yong, a third-year student from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources said although she came from a different ethnic background, it did not



stop her and her friends from coming out in full force to show moral support and to enliven the festival, which not only showcased cultural performances by the Indian community, but that of the Malay and Chinese as well.

The festival's Programme Director, Simon Peter Chandran, said, spectators not only get to enjoy cultural performances staged by the Indian community, but that of Malay and Chinese as well. Among the performances were Bharatham, Indian Classical Dance & Drama, Silambam, Chinese Yoyo, 1 Malaysia Dance, Dikir Barat and Malay Traditional Dance. A special appearance by guest artiste Viswamithara also captured the audiences' hearts.

Parameswari, 38, from Batu 11, Kuantan, said that that was the first time they stepped into the university. It was worth it because they had never experienced such celebration as the one held at UMP.

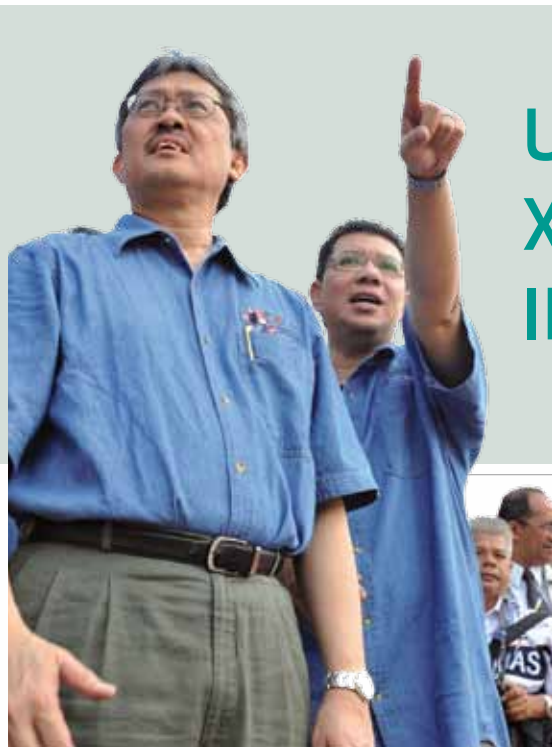
"This festival has helped promote the good name of and introduce UMP to all present."

Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir officiated

the festival's opening in the presence of UMP Registrar, Mustafa Ibrahim, and Pahang Bell Club Chairman, Thagaselan.

The festival, which celebrated the Indian community's appreciation to their God also aimed to promote a better understanding of one of many Indian festivals.





# UMP-KPT 1Malaysia Rafting X-Ploration Sees Encouraging IPT Participation

Ministry of Higher Education (KPT).

Held for the first time ever from May 11 to 15, the rafting exploration was a joint collaboration with KPT. The expedition started out at Kampung Kuala Triang and then moved on to Bera, Kampung Pesagi in Maran, Kampung Belimbing and Kampung Kiambang, Ganchong in Pekan and finally ended at Pekan Riverfront.

All 35 teams congregated for two days on May 9 and 10 at the Kampung Bangau Tanjung Camp in Temerloh to decorate their rafts before being flagged off from the Esplanade by the KPT Deputy Minister, Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah.

Present at the flag-off were UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim; Temerloh District Officer, Dato' Dr Salehuddin Ishak; and the Head of Temerloh Town Council, Dato' Zulkifli Yaakob.

According to Dato' Saifuddin, organizing such rafting exploration showed the continuous synergy between the ministry and the various local academic institutions. "It is a reflection of the spirit of unity that has acculturated among IPT students to literally, wade through all the obstacles Sungai Pahang offered.

"KPT has always strived to produce graduates who excel intellectually, spiritually and academically, as well as ones who are vigorously active in co-curriculum.

"IPT students have the potential to stand out not only in sports, but also in recreational activities, like this rafting exploration, which eventually will stimulate intellectual and physical dash, and in turn, contribute to leading a healthy lifestyle," said the Deputy Minister.

"Such activity presents ample opportunity for students to interact

The UMP-KPT 1Malaysia Rafting X-Ploration in Pahang saw encouraging participation from the local institutions of higher learning (IPT) with thirty-five teams, comprising 455 members, arriving at the last leg of the expedition in Pekan Riverfront.

The 35 teams not only included five teams from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) but also consisted of teams from 10 private and nine other public IPTs, seven community colleges, three polytechnics, and one team from the





**Award for Most Innovative Creation of Raft**

1. Rompin Community College  
▶ **Winner**
2. International Islamic University, Gombak ▶ **1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up**
3. Selandar Community College, Melaka ▶ **2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up**
4. Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka ▶ **Consolation**
5. Seberang Perai Polytechnic ▶ **Consolation**

**Award for Best Display of 1Raft-1Malaysia Spirit**

1. Universiti Teknologi Malaysia ▶ **Winner**
2. International Islamic University College (KUIS A) ▶ **1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up**
3. Universiti Malaysia Pahang (Suksis-Corp) ▶ **2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up**
4. International Islamic University College (KUIS B) ▶ **Consolation**
5. International Islamic University, Kuantan ▶ **Consolation**

**Award for Best Steward**

1. Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia ▶ **Winner**
2. Seberang Perai Polytechnic ▶ **1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up**
3. International Islamic University College ▶ **2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up**
4. Universiti Malaysia Pahang (FKM) ▶ **Consolation**
5. Ministry of Higher Education ▶ **Consolation**

and mingle with other students from the various IPTs, and foster a greater network of friendship in the spirit of 1Malaysia," he emphasized.

Students' participation in co-curriculum activities, just like sports, does not necessarily have to end with students just being active, but this could be taken further to the level of professionals, he added.

"Beginning this year, KPT has introduced "my3s" to assess and grade the soft skills of IPT students. There are seven core values – namely communication skills, critical thinking in resolving problems, continuing education, information management, professional morale, entrepreneurship and leadership.

On that same tone, UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim, said, the rafting exploration tested the physical and mental strength as well as the

capabilities of IPT students to complete the 192km expedition from Temerloh to Pekan Riverfront.

"The expedition sought to engage IPT students from various states under a recreational umbrella, to experience the unique traditional pastime of rafting down Sungai Pahang," said the Vice-Chancellor.

"It also exposed the students to the reality of rural lifestyle. The reception at every leg of the expedition presented an opportunity for the students to interact with the village-folks and be conscious of as well as appreciate their cultural and communal activities," added Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir.

"The unwavering commitment shown by the students, organizing committee, technical and security officer, paramedics and rescuers has made the expedition successful and one completed on schedule."

A participant from UMP's Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Azrol Azam Nizarudin, expressed his joy and hoped that the expedition will be made an annual ritual. "Students not only get to share experiences, but also had the opportunity to learn new skills in rafting as well as learn to persevere in the face of adversities."

Another participant, Mohamad Riduwan Suroso, from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, said the expedition also presented circumstances for students to apply their engineering knowledge creatively and innovatively to ensure that their rafts did not capsize and sink.

At the end of the final leg, prizes were given away by the Chairman of the Committee for the Pahang State Entrepreneur & Co-operatives Development, Dato's Ishak Mohamad at Pekan Riverfront.



# GOLD MEDALLIST AT 21<sup>ST</sup> INVENTION INNOVATION EXHIBITION (ITEX 2010)

DEVELOPMENT OF CLEAN, RENEWABLE FUEL FROM WASTEWATER, TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOURCE, USING GREEN TECHNOLOGY APPROACH: SEWAGE AS AN ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY FUEL

**(PATENT PENDING: PI 2010 000766)**

**R**esearchers at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) are currently developing an innovative renewable fuel technology, which has the ability to produce a sustainable energy supply from wet waste, such as sewage, leach ate and paper mill waste.

This wet waste, particularly sewage from residential areas and treatment plants, contains large amount of water, which can be transformed into clean renewable fuel. This renewable fuel can then be used as a reliable energy source for direct applications, such as cooking, heating or welding works.

UMP's innovative renewable fuel technology, known as hydrogen electrochemical cell (HEC<sup>2</sup>), is powered by solar energy and capable of extracting hydrogen gas, from any aqueous base, four times more efficient than the conventional hydrogen electrolyzer.



# INTERNATIONAL ON & TECHNOLOGY



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- Dr Anuar Ahmad,
- Nasrullah Zulkipli

Hydrogen, as a matter of fact, is an ideal alternative fuel resource, as it burns completely, contains high flammability and does not produce greenhouse gas effect.

However, to generate hydrogen gas, it is conventionally electrolyzed by high energy input, derived from hydrocarbon fuel – an inefficient process and certainly not economically feasible.

Hence, to overcome these two issues, UMP's newly-developed HEC<sup>2</sup> produces synthetic hydrogen gas using green technology approach, such as solar – photovoltaic collector. This highly technologically efficient renewable fuel resource will significantly reduce our dependence on fossil fuel, which in turn, will help preserve the quality of environment we live in, while simultaneously giving the green technology effort a boost.

Furthermore, HEC<sup>2</sup> does more than just generate renewable fuel source, this innovative technology helps treat

*UMP's innovative renewable fuel technology, known as hydrogen electrochemical cell (HEC<sup>2</sup>), is powered by solar energy and capable of extracting hydrogen gas, from any aqueous base, four times more efficient than the conventional hydrogen electrolyzer.*

wastewater by increasing its quality, through the reduction of carbon-oxygen demand (COD) and removal of suspended solids.

From the research, it was recorded that the quality of electrolyzed wastewater, particularly sewage, could be improved with at least three hours of electrolysis process. It was observed that COD was reduced to 88 percent while 91 percent of suspended solids were removed. Conventional treatment will require three days to achieve similar results.

In conclusion, UMP's innovative renewable fuel technology supports the country's Green Technology Policy and the Prime Minister's aspiration to turn Malaysia into a high-income and innovation-based economy.



