

# PEKAN REVIEW

Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity

**'GENDEKIA BITARA'**  
AWARD HONOURS  
OUTSTANDING  
RESEARCHERS  
AND LECTURERS

**JOHOR MB**  
PROPOSED  
COOPERATION  
WITH UMP

**DE KUALA CAFE**

A SYMBOL OF COOPERATION  
BETWEEN ECER AND UMP

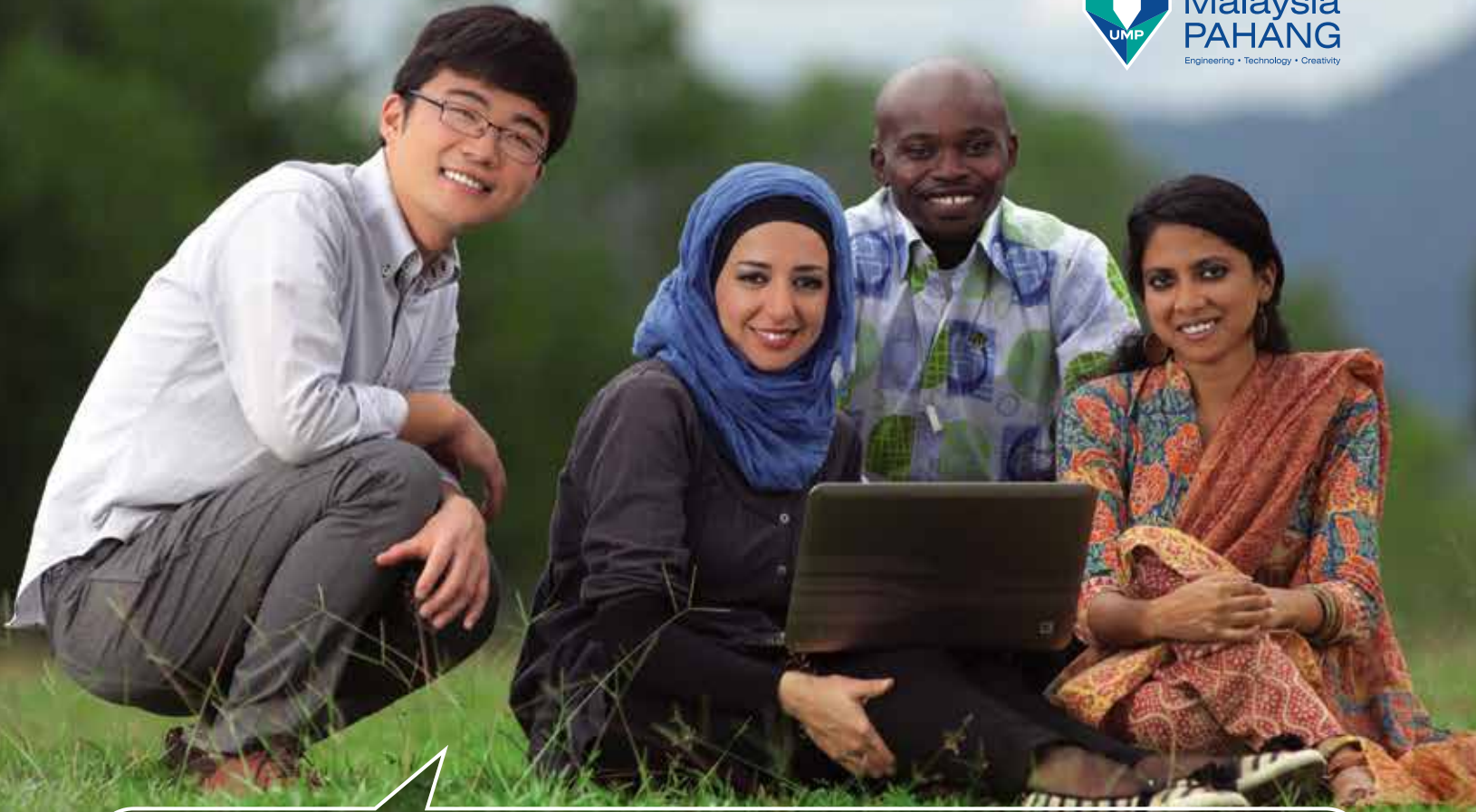
ISSN 2180-3099



9 772180 309006







## Why UMP is the logical move for your outstanding and unique technological experience:

### First local public university:

- To be conferred “digital university” status in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.
- To inaugurate the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education's “MyMoHES” database, and ranked five-star.
- To be certified OHSAS 18001:1999.
- To establish Centralized Laboratory in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.
- To establish Mandarin Language & Cultural Centre.
- To spearhead industry centres of excellence, with the collaborations of HeiTech Padu Bhd, IBM Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Miyazu Sdn Bhd and Sapura Industrial Bhd.
- To spearhead students apprenticeship programme, with the collaborations of Malaysian Automotive Institute.
- To spearhead soft skills programme for human capital development.

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- The largest TM HotZone bandwidth in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.
- Strong collaborations and strategic networking with industries and corporations, as well as tie-ups with renowned domestic and international universities.
- German Academic & Career Centre.
- World-class Sports Complex, including a national focus on basketball
- Complete and comfortable infrastructures.
- The best and sophisticated laboratory in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

### Ranked:

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- A variety of accredited engineering and technical study programmes.
- A culture of excellence in research and innovation.
- Double degrees programme with Hochschule Karlsruhe Und Wirtschaft (HsKA) of Germany.
- Collaborative partnerships with industries in the East Coast Industrial Belt.

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'Cendekia Bitara' Award Honours Outstanding Researchers And Lecturers



De Kuala Cafe, a Symbol of Cooperation Between Ecer And UMP



UMP Denizens Donated Rm12,000 to the Palestine-Gaza Fund

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FROM THE **EDITOR'S DESK**

# REALIZING UMP'S VISION OF CONTINUOUS EXCELLENCE



Greetings to our faithful *Pekan Review* readers,

In the endeavour to instill continuous excellence at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), *Pekan Review* has gone for its 8<sup>th</sup> print to, again, share several recent accomplishments by UMP.

The culture of excellence, be it via research output or students' achievements – illustrated, as always, in each edition of *Pekan Review* – with displays of high-level commitment and consistency by UMP to position itself as the technical university of choice, should be a source of emulation.

Needless to mention, this continuous excellence acculturation is always emphasized in the Vice-Chancellor's (VC) annual commissioning address, with last year's highlighting his aspiration on three main aspects – namely Consistency, Empirical Creativity and Positive Concern.

In this issue of *Pekan Review*, it has become apparent that the VC's aspirations can, literally, be inculcated and realized by all of us at UMP.

The aspect of Consistency, for example, is stirringly evident when UMP, again, honoured lecturers and researchers who have brought nationwide and international fame to the university, with the holding of yet another Cendekia Bitara Award Night.

The Award Night was even more meaningful and festive with the presence of UMP Chancellor, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Pahang, Tengku Abdullah Al-Haj Ibni Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah, who graced the event to celebrate the successes recorded by UMP academicians.

Hence, the aspect of Consistency should be a second nature in our work culture to ensure future and continuous excellence at UMP.

Meanwhile, the aspect of Empirical Creativity has, in an instance, produced an outstanding student, Azwan Affandi Md Jahaya, who was recently conferred the "Varsity Icon" title by the country's mainstream Malay vernacular newspaper, *Berita Harian*. The engineering student's attitude and display of creativity and innovation has earned him such an accord.

Albeit still being an undergraduate, Azwan Affandi has diligently applied his entrepreneurial skills and the knowledge garnered at UMP to set up his own company, to coordinate the application of information technology (IT) equipment and peripherals, not only at UMP, but also at 84 other community colleges across the country.

With the creativity to combine expertise gained in the world of science with that of commerce and trade, Azwan Affandi has certainly given birth to a visionary plan for other students to follow suit. Congratulations to Azwan Affandi!

The third aspect, which the VC has consistently emphasized is Positive Concern – an attitude which will, without a doubt, positively contribute to self-development, especially in resolving problems through creative and innovative solutions, and ultimately produce beneficial and profitable outcome.

A good illustration of such attitude is the success recorded by a student from the Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKPP), Jamunaa Patchappan, who took home two awards from the Chinese Bridge 2013 competition held in Hunan, China, recently. Although of different descent and vernacular, Jamunaa went on to prove that she can master Mandarin, China's main communication language. The Positive Concern she had has driven her to rise above the challenges to have better command of the language.

Hence, it is only deserving that the publication of *Pekan Review* continues to share the excellent achievements recorded by our beloved university – especially driven by the VC's aspirations, coupled with innovative and consistent work culture, which has catapulted UMP to what it is today. May these positive virtues continue to thrive in every one of us at UMP.

*Have a good read,*

**Abdul Rahman Haji Safie**

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S VOICE

# ENHANCING OUR FOUNDATION EN ROUTE TO EXCELLENCE

Greetings to our faithful *Pekan Review* readers,

For a Vice-Chancellor (VC), nothing makes him happier than to see a university progresses in leaps and bounds. And that is evident here, all the concerted efforts labored in the last 11 years have finally paid off – Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) is now progressing in harmony with its transformation agenda. Truly, it is a proud achievement for all of us at UMP.

Furthermore, it can't be denied that each year UMP records many historical accomplishments. A nagging fear, however, with all these successes that we are showered with, we may, God-forbid, find ourselves falling into complacency – a trapdoor that will consequently lead us into indifference and disregard.

Hence, it begs me to remind all of us the gist of the VC's annual commissioning speech delivered earlier this year, one which is not to be taken lightly. We need

to revisit the very basic foundation of the university's strategic implementation phase. There is no such thing as comfort zone, we need to always march forward, but with the roots and identity of UMP in mind, at all times.

On that note, via this bulletin *Pekan Review*, I wish to, once again, call upon everyone at UMP to upkeep the momentum of growth so as not to fall into the traps of complacency with present day successes.

It goes without saying that we need to emphasize the importance of strengthening our core identity – so that we can always reflect on who we were and assess our performance thus far, using the two as our yardsticks as we move farther ahead.

And with continuous assessment of our efforts and accomplishments since the foundation of UMP, it will consistently inject a refreshing breath of life to guide us on areas that we need to improvise in the future.

With that said, I am confident that every ounce of effort poured in by the citizens of UMP will always be meaningful, because every effort has contributed to mould the university to what it is today.

Finally, I wish to express that whatever it is that we do today, will definitely have an effect and impact in the future. It is my sincere hope that whatever I have shared thus far will leave a lasting impression on everyone at UMP.

My parting words, let us ensure that all our objectives are moving in tandem with the work culture we have assimilated at UMP. I strongly believe that if we keep up the momentum, we will surely go farther and achieve far greater success.

Happy reading!

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







# ‘CENDEKIA BITARA’ AWARD

## HONOURS OUTSTANDING RESEARCHERS AND LECTURERS



international grants, exhibitions, conferences, pre-commercialisation, research contracts, industrial collaborations, intellectual property registration and publications,” he said.

He added that last year, the university received research grants worth RM14.462 million for 234 research projects - an increase of 87.2% as compared to 125 projects in 2011.

The funding sum had also recorded a remarkable jump of 156.8% from RM5.63 million received in 2011, he said.

As for the university’s academic publications, Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir said to date, there were 1,211 publications of conference papers, research articles and refereed articles.

He also said UMP was proud when Associate Professor Md. Mustafizur Rahman of the Mechanical Engineering Faculty came up with a journal of Impact Factor 31.677 and a journal; ‘International Journal of Automotive and Mechanical Engineering (IJAME)’ made it into the indexes of world renowned abstract and citation database - Scopus and Elsevier - early this year.

On the ‘Cendekia Bitara’ Award recipients for the research product category, seven names were announced and they were Associate Professor Dr. Zularisam Ab. Wahid – Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA), Ir Zulkeflee Khalidin – Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Associate Professor Dr. Arun Gupta – Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA), Dr. Jolius Gimbut (FKKSA), Associate Professor Dr. Maksudur Rahman Khan (FKKSA), Ahmad Basirul Subha Alias – Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FKM) and Dr. Fathima Shahita – Faculty of Industrial Sciences and Technology (FSTI).

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Chancellor His Highness Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Al-Haj Ibni Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta’in Billah presented awards to 33 recipients comprising academicians during the ‘Cendekia Bitara (Incomparable Intellectuals) 2012’ Award ceremony held at Zenith Hotel, Kuantan on April 19, 2013.

The annual award presentation was to honour UMP staff members who had produced outstanding research works and innovations.

In his speech, Tengku Abdullah called on UMP staff to ensure that their publications and researches had high impacts and could be collectively benefitted by all.

“The challenges in enriching research activities and innovations are not merely exclusive for academicians but must also be embraced by administrators and undergraduates.

“UMP also needs quality administrators who are capable of consistently merging research elements, creativity and innovation as part of the efforts to improve the university’s governance

capacity and public delivery system.

“The combination of the academicians’ wisdom and administrators, merged with the knowledgeable undergraduates can bring about an outstanding and incomparable brand of UMP,” he said.

He also hoped that researches carried out would take into consideration of issues, needs and problems of local community and suggested that researchers produced academic works that would add values to the peoples’ well-being.

This would reflect the reality of positive relationships of three entities – Government, University and Community, said Tengku Abdullah and noted that the implementation of the Blue Ocean Strategy took into consideration of these three units which complemented each other.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said, UMP Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 agenda focused mainly on strengthening the university’s level of achievement in research, creativity and innovation.

“The main criteria of UMP’s branding excellence includes acquiring of domestic and





*The combination of the academicians' wisdom and administrators, merged with the knowledgeable undergraduates can bring about an outstanding and incomparable brand of UMP*



Each took home appreciation certificates and cash RM5,000.

For the journal publication category, 21 staff members produced high-impact journals and among them were FKSA lecturers Mior Ahmad Khushairi Mohd. Zahari (Impact Factor 4.98) and Associate Professor Dr. Zularisam Ab. Wahid (Impact Factor 4.05).

According to Associate Professor Dr. Zularisam, his research, 'UMP CaO: Pome (Palm

Oil Mill Effluent) for Energy', was about producing renewable energy technology or methane gas. It involved a bio-degradation process where calcium oxide played a role in sludge granulation and methanogenesis in treating palm oil mill effluent.

"The technology is able to generate methane gas up to eight times more as compared to conventional method and reduce 'COD POME' twice than normal.

"In fact, the treatment period can be shortened from one and two months to four and seven days only," said Associate Professor Dr. Zularisam whose research also involved Engr. Syukor Abd. Razak and Associate Professor Dr. Mimi Sakinah Abd. Munaim.

UMP also honoured its lecturers who were excellent in the teaching and learning aspect by presenting Outstanding Teaching Award (OTA) and Innovative Award (IA) under the University Academic Award category.

The OTA recipients were FKASA lecturer, Associate Professor Ir Adnan Zulkiple (Engineering

and FSKKP Lecturer, Dr. Azhar Kamaludin (Applied Science).

Two lecturers from Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (CMLHS) - Ahmad Irfan Ikmal Hisham garnered two awards under the Literature and Social Science and Innovative Categories for e-Learning while Marziah Ramli won the Innovative Award for her 'Student-Focused Learning' Approach.

The OTA recipients each took home RM5,000 cash, appreciation certificates and trophies while the IA recipients each received RM3,000, certificates and trophies.

Among the guests were the university's Board of Directors Chairman, Dato' Mohd. Hilmei Mohd. Taib, members of the board of directors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Industrial Science and Technology Faculty Dean and organising committee chairman Professor Dr. Mashitah Md. Yusoff.



UMP DENIZENS DONATED  
RM12,000 TO THE  
**PALESTINE-GAZA**  
**FUND**





*It was a heartfelt contribution from UMP staff to help the Palestine people in Gaz.*



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) donated RM12,000 to the Palestine-Gaza Fund during a ceremony that marked the launching of the fund held at MS Garden Hotel in Kuantan on January 29, 2013.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim presented a mock cheque of RM12,000 at the event launched by His Royal Highness The Crown Prince of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Al-Haj Ibni Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah.

Dato' Dr. Daing said UMP staff contributed RM10,000 while RM2,000 was donated by the Staff's Welfare and Sports Organisation (BKSS) and UMP Women Association (Matahari).

"It was a heartfelt contribution from UMP staff to help the Palestine people in Gaza," he said.

Also present were more than 70 donors who donated to Pertubuhan Himpunan Lulusan Institusi Pendidikan Malaysia (Malaysia Learning Institutes Alumni Assembly Association or HALUAN) and Perdana Global Peace Foundation

(PGPF).

Contributions also came from government agencies, private sector, individuals and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Pahang which totaled to RM1 million while public donation that derived from collections from mosque funds was RM117,118.

Tengku Abdullah, in his speech, said he was grateful and proud with the noble gesture showed by everyone including the NGOs, especially HALUAN Malaysia, PGPF and Aman Palestine, in helping Palestine.

He hoped that the donation drive for the Palestine-Gaza Fund could be mobilised at district level as well so the people would continue to support the good cause in helping those suffering in Palestine.

The donations received were expected to be channeled through collaborations with al-Sarraa Foundation, an NGO in Gaza that funded several short and long term projects such as the al-Huda

Cancer Treatment Centre, Malaysia-Indonesia general hospital in Gaza City, an al-Quran Tahfiz Centre at the refugees' camp and a syariah primary school in Deir Al Balah.

The guests were also shown video clips by PGPF, entertained by a flash mob dance, a pantomime and 'Palestin Tercinta' (The Beloved Palestine) nasyid performance by HALUAN Undergraduate Club members.

There was also an exhibition displaying the sufferings of Palestine people and projects to help them.

Also present were Pahang Chief Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Diraja Adnan Yaakob, PGPF Advisor, Dato' Mukhriz Tun Mahathir, HALUAN President, Dr Abdullah Sudin Ab. Rahman, HALUAN Deputy President, Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr. Abu Azam Md. Yassin and State Secretary, Dato' Sri Muhammad Safian Ismail.

# DE KUALA CAFE, A SYMBOL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ECER AND UMP



*The idea to open the eatery was presented to the Rural and Regional Development Ministry and was approved to operate in one of the Kuala Pahang RTC buildings*

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), together with ECERDC-UMP Human Development Programme, introduced a training programme 'Masakan 1Malaysia' (1Malaysia Cooking) and had successfully helped to set up an eatery that specialised in Malay cooking.

The eatery was among the outlets opened on the launching of the Rural Transformation Centre in Pekan, Pahang on March 1, 2013.

The eatery, De' Kuala Cafe, was a product of UMP and ECER strategic cooperation formed under the ECER Mahkota Kuala Pahang. It was officially opened by Tengku Mahkota of Pahang last year.

The idea to open the eatery was presented to the Rural and Regional Development Ministry and was approved to operate in one of the Kuala Pahang RTC buildings.

The Pekan RTC was officially opened by Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak who said it was the fourth after RTCs in Perak, Kelantan and Malacca, adding, it would surely allow various services provided by the state and government agencies under one roof be enjoyed





by the public in the area.

According to Nor Alisa Azam, owner of the De' Kuala Cafe, she was determined to take part in the cooking class programme because of the assistance provided by UMP to help realise her dreams of having a place that specialised in Malay dishes.

"I am grateful to UMP and ECER for their willingness to sponsor the equipment while renovations were by the Rural and Regional Development Ministry.

"I am also happy and touched with the help

given and I promise to work hard to ensure the outlet is a success," she said.

Nor Alisa and her friends were participants of the 1Malaysia Cooking Programme.

Also present at the launching of Pekan RTC were Menteri Besar Pahang, Dato' Sri Diraja Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob, Rural and Regional Development Minister, Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal, Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister, Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Chief Secretary to the Government, Datuk Seri Dr Ali Hamsa.





*In taking advantage of the wide range of academic expertise and experience especially in engineering, science and technology, UMP is capable of being the driving force in developing the local socio-economy especially in Pekan*

# CONTINUOUS SYNERGY

## BETWEEN UMP AND ECERDC HELPED BOOST ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF STUDENTS IN RURAL AREA

In a move to strike a balance in the growth of rural and urban areas, collaborations between institutes of higher learning (IPTS), government agencies, industries and regional economic development councils can improve the socio-economic development of local community including students' academic achievement.

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the synergy that had been consistently nurtured between the university and East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) had made great impacts by transforming the knowledge literacy landscape among students in the rural area.

"In taking advantage of the wide range of academic expertise and experience especially in engineering,

science and technology, UMP is capable of being the driving force in developing the local socio-economy especially in Pekan.

"If one diligently studies the Blue Ocean Strategy, the synergy of two parties can actually reduce the government's burden in outlining initiatives and channeling of funds to support academic and human development-related activities," he said in his speech at the prize-giving presentation to students who excelled in the PMR and SPM examinations held at Astaka Hall, UMP Gambang campus on April 17, 2013.

The students were participants of the Kuala Pahang Sinar ECER and Empower ECER initiatives.

According to Dato' Dr. Daing, UMP was really proud with the close cooperation fostered with ECERDC that





saw active involvement of the university's staff and undergraduates who conducted academic-related training and motivational activities in schools.

He added that with continued support from the Pahang Education Department and Pekan District Education Department, the activities were able to be mobilised and implemented at schools and these had helped to boost academic excellence and enhance character-building among the participants.

Six schools were involved in the initiatives that comprised two secondary schools - SMK Indera Shahbandar and SMK Lepar, and four primary schools - SK Indera Shahbandar, SK

Serandu, SK Runchang and SK Lepar.

Dato' Dr. Daing also said this year, the two initiatives would be extended to another 13 schools in Kuala Pahang involving 1,781 students.

ECERDC Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Jebasingam Issace John said he was pleased with the cooperation rendered by UMP and other strategic partners in helping to realise the government's aspirations in increasing the education level and performance of students in rural areas.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir and Dato' Jebasingam Issace John also gave away prizes and appreciation certificates to 44 students who scored good results and those with potentials of

doing better in their studies.

Among them were SMK Lepar students Rabiatul Adawiyah Afindi, whose parents participated in an ECER economic initiative - Pekan Agropolitan project - scored 7As in SPM while Zulhilmi Zaiful Kamil and Auni Fatin Liyana Borhan, both attained 8As in the PMR.

The students each received between RM50 and RM150, depending on their results, and certificates. More than 200 guests comprising family members, school principals, teachers and UMP staff attended the event.

Also present were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Industry and Community Networking Division Director (BJIM), Professor Dr Zulkefli Yaacob, UMP Women Association (Matahari) President, Associate Professor Dr. Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim, ECERDC Social Development Division Managing Director, Zulkifli Ya'acob and ECER-UMP Social Development Project Manager, Zainal Bahari.



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim delivered his new year speech for 2013 by making a call to all staff to continue to build success and to revisit the basis of the strategic implementation phase in a move to continue keep on building excellence.

Dato' Dr. Daing said, UMP was now enjoying a stature and feat that was far more better that it was five years ago.

"Going back to the basics requires us to re-examine the capacity, role and contribution made by each of us in the organisation. Each one of the UMP staff members should be individuals who are able to contribute productively through talent, knowledge, skill and good work traits.

"UMP will continue to strive so the number of its academic staff with PhDs will increase. Now, there are 202 or 35% of its total 581 lecturers with PhDs as compared to 16% in 2009. The number of undergraduates and post-graduate students has also showed an increase, annually.

"It is also proud to note that UMP is the

choice of the best students from matriculation programme and STPM leavers with up to 62% of them obtaining CGPAs of 3.0 and above. These are the undergraduates of the 2012/2013 session. This is the result of strategies and initiatives implemented by the university," he said when delivering the speech at UMP Sports Complex hall in Gambang.

To date, UMP has 7,474 undergraduates and 746 post-graduate students pursuing their studies in 113 programmes as compared to 54 in 2004.

Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir also expressed his gratitude to all the stakeholders, partners and others who believed in UMP and formed collaborations.

He was also thankful of the hard work given by the staff and undergraduates in building up the university's, pushing their accomplishments to the next higher level.

He added that human capital was the key to a strong foundation and is a valuable asset that could add to the organisation's production capacity.

As such, each staff member - whether academics, management, professional and support - was the finest in terms of academic qualification and experience, he said.

However, he suggested that the good organisation in the selection process in UMP should be enhanced so the university would be able to unearth the talents, values and work culture of an applicant.



# BACK TO BASICS -VC

*Going back to the basics requires us to re-examine the capacity, role and contribution made by each of us in the organisation. Each one of the UMP staff members should be individuals who are able to contribute productively through talent, knowledge, skill and good work traits*





He added that staff recruitment process in all the three categories – academic, management and professional and support – should be reviewed to make it more rigorous and for it to be able to screen only the best candidates.

Dato' Dr. Daing said, those who were tasked with human resource management should understand that the university's human capital could be referred and handled based on five stages with the first being the individuals were of ability and high quality. Each staff member should be a person who was able to contribute productively based on his or her talent, knowledge, skills and good work habits.

"Secondly, as a team member, each must render his or her potential so the team's goal and objective can be obtained.

"Thirdly, a competent manager can effectively supervise the people and resources towards

attaining the goals set. Among these competent and proficient contributors, there should be among them with the flair for managerial duties.

"Fourthly, UMP also needs effective leaders to enable commitment and align efforts with a commanding and clear vision and help drive performance level to the next higher level. The fifth is a group of individuals known as 'Level 5 Executives' who will develop sustainable organisational excellence," he added.



Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said he was confident that UMP would obtain the autonomous status one day and, this would come with profound responsibility, adding, everyone would be involved to take on this accountability to their best ability.

Also, in line with the National Volunteerism Year 2013, UMP would continue to drive home the message among undergraduates and in fact, the roles of associations, cooperatives and UMP-owned companies should be further upgraded for this would contribute towards UMP's excellence.

Efforts would be taken too to step up the 'Kempen Kewujudan UMP Disedari, Suara UMP Didengari (Recognised the Existence of UMP, Heed the Voice of UMP) for sustainable branding.

More than 5,000 UMP undergraduates and staff members attended the event. Among them were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Ir. Dato' Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus and Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pekan Administration), Professor Dr. Zahari Taha.



# JOHOR MB PROPOSED COOPERATION WITH UMP



Universiti Malaysia Pahang top management team led by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim paid a courtesy call to Johor Menteri Besar, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohd Khalid Nordin on August 29, 2013.

Dato' Seri Mohd Khalid was formerly the Higher Education Minister.

The auspicious meeting was held at his office in Dato' Jaafar Building, Kota Iskandar, Nusajaya.

In the meeting, several matters were discussed including updating Dato' Seri Mohd Khalid on UMP's latest development and its future in Malaysia.

Dato' Seri Mohd Khalid also proposed that the university and Johor state government formed collaborations in various areas such as participating in the petrochemical industry in Pengerang, organising volunteering activities and for UMP's staff and undergraduates to take part in

programmes involving sharing of their expertise.

Also present were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abd Aziz, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Development & Quality Management), Professor Dr. Shamsuddin Baharin and Vice-Chancellor's Office Head, Abd. Rahman Safie.



# RE-APPOINTMENT OF UMP'S VC

The Higher Education Ministry has re-appointed Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim as Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Vice-Chancellor for another two years, effective from May 16, 2013.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir, 58, hails from Johor Bahru. He has a PhD from University of Dundee, United Kingdom and had worked in Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). He was USM's Dean of Management Faculty and Director of Advanced Management Centre.

He has vast experience in management, accounting, corporate governance and research methodology. He has received various honours and among them were the Academy for Global Business Advancement (AGBA) Life-Time Achievement Award during the AGBA International Congress in 2010 and AGBA Fellow during AGBA Ninth Congress held in Ajman University of Science and Technology, UAE last

year.

In the administration field, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing promotes running an organisation that is value-based and strategy-focused as well as emphasis on performance evaluation. He also stresses on an agenda that strengthens the foundation which promotes academia excellence.

"Based on the National Higher Education Strategic Plan (PSPTN) and UMP Strategic Plan 2011-2015, UMP will continue to excel and make its mark at the international level," he said.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing has also been appointed as a Visiting Professor at the Hebei University, China. He was an experienced Visiting Professor as he had a stint at the College of Industrial Management, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Mineral between 2008 and 2010.

His other posts included Chairman of CAP PSPTN KPT, member of Malaysia Examination Council, member of Yogyakarta Technology



University's trustee board, member of the Pahang State Economic Advisory Council, Chairman of Malaysia Examination Council's Investment Committee and member of the Pahang Youth Legal Council.

The re-appointments of the Vice-Chancellor will undeniably set UMP in course in becoming an outstanding, world-class technology university.



## PROFESSOR DR MASHITAH APPOINTED AS UMP'S NEW DEPUTY VC (RESEARCH & INNOVATION)

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology (FSTI)'s Dean, Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusof was appointed as the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) for three years, effective from July 21, 2013.

Professor Dr Mashitah, 51, a doctoral degree holder in Chemistry from Wichita State University of the US, took over the post from Professor Dato' Dr Rosli Mohd Yunos who held it since 2008.

Prior to working in UMP, Professor Dr Mashitah was with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). She was also the Research Centre Director for Malaysia Engineering and Technology University College

(KUKTEM) which was eventually renamed to UMP.

She had also served as the dean of UMP's Graduate Studies Programme Centre this year.

Professor Dr Mashitah played a pivotal role in the setting up of FSTI in 2008 and had remained as the dean since the inception five years ago. At the same time, she was also the university's Centralised Laboratory director.

Born in Bukit Mertajam, Penang, Professor Dr Mashitah has shown keen interest in the research area since her younger days.

The academician has conducted a lot of research works, presented working papers in the country as well as abroad and published books.

Among them were '*Rahsia dan Keunikan Gaharu*' (The Secret and Uniqueness of Gaharu), 'Pahang Biodiversity and Biotechnology Strategic Action' and 'Future Directions of Biotechnology Education in Malaysia'.

Her vast experience in the academic area and research field served as an advantage to Professor Dr Mashitah in being UMP's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation).

Congratulations from Pekan Review editorial team and it is hope that UMP will further flourish under her leadership.

UMP – LEADER OF INDUSTRY CENTRE OF EXCELLENT FOR

# BIO-TECH



*Constant efforts taken by the ministry will strengthen the level of marketability of undergraduates by way of forging collaborations between the industry and academia. This will be extended to other clusters such as construction and ICT*



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Manipal International University (MIU) have been appointed to take charge of developing Industry Centre of Excellent (ICoE) for biotechnology industry that involved areas in chemical engineering, industries and food in Malaysia.

It would involve upgrading the human capital development, research and development and commercialisation efforts between the universities and industries especially in

providing opportunities of working together through regional economic corridor initiatives, namely the East Coast Economic Region (ECER) and Iskandar Malaysia.

The announcement was made during an event that marked the launching of the centre by Higher Education Minister, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin at MIU on March 15, 2013.

Also present were the Ministry's Secretary General, Datuk Ab. Rahim Md. Noor, Higher Education Department Director General,



# INNOVATION TECHNOLOGY

Dato' Professor Dr. Rujhan Mustafa, UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim and MIU Vice-Chancellor, Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Mohamed Salleh Yasin.

"Constant efforts taken by the ministry will strengthen the level of marketability of undergraduates by way of forging collaborations between the industry and academia. This will be extended to other clusters such as construction and ICT.

"Also, the networking between institutes of higher learning and industries is important to spur the country's economic progress to make Malaysia a more internationally competitive nation," he said at the launching of ICoE in MIU, Kuala Lumpur.

UMP is also the leader of ICoE for automotive cluster that produced 'die and mold, a venture forged with Miyazu Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (Miyazu) and Sistem Suspensi involving Sapura Industrial Berhad (Sapura). It was conducted by Excellent Automotive Centre (EAC) since 2010.

To date, the ministry has set up four clusters – electrical and electronic, automotive, wholesale and retail as well as oil and gas.

In the ceremony, UMP also presented research findings related to automotive activities carried out by EAC, and biotechnology that were available at UMP Centralised Laboratory.





# MOHE MINISTER URGED UNDERGRADUATES TO GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMME



*Programme such as this can help mould one's personality. However, you must be wise and matured when making decisions to engage in outside activities,*

Higher Education Minister, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin urged undergraduates to get involved in community service programmes especially helping those in really dire need.

"Programme such as this can help mould one's personality. However, you must be wise and matured when making decisions to engage in outside activities," he said when presenting contributions to flood victims in Kampung Galing Besar in Kuantan on January 10, 2013.

Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled also presented cash aids of RM100 and essential items to each of the 164 flood victims. The cash aids and essential items were donated by UMP Women Association (Matahari) and UMP Staff Welfare and Sports Organisation (BKSS).

The programme was organised by the ministry and UMP to help ease the sufferings of the flood victims and their families so they could go on with their daily lives.

Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled said he was proud with the initiative taken despite it being the examination week, adding, it did not deter 75 of the undergraduates to take part in the gotong-roiyong to paint the mosque which had been submerged.

The minister also said the role of a university and community could not be severed while the community should not feel awkward with the university.

He added that if previously, a university was an ivory tower but now, it played a role of not only





producing cultured manpower but also one that shared knowledge with the locals.

He said a programme like this would encourage undergraduates to participate in community activities and it would juxtapose the process of learning and teaching.

Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled also announced that the ministry would give away RM10,000 to the surau in the village for repair works and to buy new things.

He spent some time checking the homes affected by the floods and joined the

undergraduates to clean up the area as well as painted the *Haji Jaafar Surau*.

Also present were Teruntum assemblyman Dato' Chang Hong Seong, Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd. Yunus, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin and Student Representative Council (MPP) President, Abdul Na'em Suhaime.

BKSS President, Mohd. Raizalhilmy Mohd. Rais also gave away some items for the *surau* such as praying mats and garments and Yassin

manuscripts.

According to one of the villagers Normah Kassim, 52, she was thankful and touched by the contributions given.

"I feel sad when thinking about the properties damaged in the floods but the kind gesture of UMP staff help to ease the sorrow and lessen the burden. The *surau* is also being repaired," she said. More than 500 people attended the event and later, they were treated to lunch.





## UMP'S MENTOR MINISTER DISTRIBUTED BB1M



It was a joyful moment for 8,531 Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates after receiving book vouchers under the 'Baucar Buku 1Malaysia' (BB1M) when classes commenced into the second semester of the 2012/2013 session on February 18, 2013.

It was made even more meaningful when the vouchers were personally given by Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister, Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob who was also the Mentor Minister.

According to Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri, the amount given to the undergraduates had been increased to RM250 from the previous RM200 which showed the government's concern over their well-being as reflected in the 2013 budget presented by Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak.

"The fact is this is among the blessings received from a country that has prospered and doing well, which is the works of an astute government," he said at the presentation

of the book vouchers held at UMP Sports Complex.

He also advised the undergraduates to use the vouchers wisely to their own benefits by buying books and learning equipment at book stores and the university's cooperative shop.

Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri noted that the government had already subsidised 90% of education expenses and undergraduates only had to fork out 10%, adding, most of them obtained loans from the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN).

"These loans, however, would be converted to scholarships if they scored excellent results", he said.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said undergraduates should be grateful and should appreciate the benefits received for it had helped to ease their burden.

"With a current enrolment of 7,812 undergraduates and 719 post-graduate students pursuing courses in 113





programmes at eight faculties, it is a challenge for UMP to manage, given the diversity of background as well as having to understand the socio-economic gap and financial capability.

“Other than meal allowances and personal needs, their cost of living also comprises buying text and reference books which is very important to ensure that they are able to effectively and ideally follow their classes,” he said.

He added that there were some of them, especially those who came from low and medium-income families who would experience problems in buying books each time the new semester commenced.

Dr. Daing Nasir said the distribution of BB1M clearly helped to lessen their burden for most of them relied on PTPTN loans and other sponsors to finance their studies throughout the semester.

The vouchers were distributed to five faculties in UMP Gambang campus – Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resourc Engineering, Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering, Faculty of Science and Industrial Technology and Faculty of Technology.

The other three – Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering, received the vouchers on February 21, 2013 in its Pekan campus.

Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri also presented grants of RM3,000 each for consumerism activities to four institutes of higher learning - UMP, Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Polytechnic,

Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN) and UiTM - who had taken the lead to be actively involved in disseminating information on consumerism.

Also present were Paya Besar Member of Parliament, Dato Haji Abdul Manan Ismail, Lepar Assemblyman Mohd. Shohaimi Jusoh, KPDNKK Director, Mohd. A.Aruwan Abd. Aziz, UMP Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato’ Dr. Ir. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato’ Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, UMP Undergraduate Consumerism Movement (GPS) Club Chairman Qamaruddin Mohd. Fauzi and UMP MPP President, Abdul Na’em Suhaimi.

*It was a joyful moment for 8,531 Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates after receiving book vouchers under the ‘Baucar Buku 1Malaysia’ (BB1M) when classes commenced into the second semester of the 2012/2013 session on February 18, 2013*



# INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LECTURE TALKED ABOUT BUSINESS ENGINEERING



*More than 400 people comprising representatives from the industries, institutes of higher learning, government agencies, undergraduates and academicians attended the programme.*

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), being a technology-based university, organised an international public lecture titled, 'The Convergence: Business Engineering' delivered by Reutlingen University (RU) President, Professor Dr. Hendrik Brumme.

The talk was part of the efforts taken to enhance knowledge in business engineering.

According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, the talk was an initiative to diversify the university's academic programmes by taking into account relevant business and technical elements to support its engineering-based courses.

"Discussions with the industries revealed that there was a pressing need for engineers to understand the reality and a variety of elements

involved in running a successful business.

"In fact, there is also an increase in the need for business executives to understand the details that put together an excellent design and device," he said in his speech at the event held at Za'aba Hall, Higher Education Ministry in Putrajaya on February 21, 2013.

He added that a university played role of studying the needs of industries in order to produce knowledgeable engineers in both business and engineering areas.

A memorandum of understanding was also signed at the event that paved the way for co-operations in academic and research including offering a new dual degree programme in business engineering between UMP and RU.

UMP was represented by Professor Dato'





Dr. Daing Nasir and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz while RU was by Professor Dr. Hendrik Brumme and its International Office Director, Professor Dr. Baldur Veit.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Ministry's General Secretary, Dato' Ab Rahim Mohd Nor and German Ambassador to Malaysia, Dr. Gunther Gruber.

Faculty of Technology Dean, Associate Professor Dr. Abdullah Ibrahim said, the programme was unique and different as compared to other conventional engineering course that was based on science for it focused on business management and one's comprehension in engineering.

"Undergraduates registered in this programme in UMP will have the chance of studying three semesters in Reutlingen University in Germany while those in Reutlingen University will have the choice on studying four semesters in UMP," he added.

More than 400 people comprising representatives from the industries, institutes of higher learning, government agencies, undergraduates and academicians attended the programme.

Also present were Higher Education Department Director General, Professor Dato' Dr. Rujhan Mustafa and UMP Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus.





# PROMINENT PROFESSOR AT A DISCOURSE DO ATTENDED BY PUBLIC AND HOSTED BY UMP

Professors are a group of professionals and intellectuals who are sharp-minded, innovative and experts in various fields. Their contribution and ideas are essential in the making of a developed nation.

As such, in an effort to make sharing of knowledge a way of life in the society, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) organised a discourse and invited prominent academician Professor Dato' Dr.

Sidek Baba of International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).

The topic was 'Melayu Sepakat, Islam Berdaulat' with UMP's Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (CMLHS) Dean, Professor Dr. Abd. Jalil Borham acting as the moderator.

More than 500 people comprising principals, teachers and UMP staff attended the event held at Astaka Hall, UMP Gambang campus on April 15, 2013.

Professor Dato' Dr. Sidek, in the discussion, said consensus had been traditionally observed by the Malays and was already a norm in forging cordial ties.

They also helped each other and rallied around in 'gotong-rotong' practices, qualities that needed to be upheld to make sure unity existed and prevailed in the country, he added.

"In fact, the Malays are a group of people who can be a model to a multi-racial and multi-ethnic society in Malaysia and to do so without denying the roles of others so everyone can reap benefits from the country's prosperity.

"In the context of governance in Malaysia, we should be proud with the trust and acceptance of the people including the non-Muslims on the



implementation of syariah-compliance methods in business, banking and investment which are guaranteed to be more sensible.

"In fact, apart from developing cutting-edge technology, the society also needs to emphasise with the Islamisation process taking place in pursuing of knowledge and developing thinking skills in order to move forward," he said, citing several prominent Muslim figures as examples such as Al-Khawarizmi, Al-Biruni and Al-Jazari.

Professor Dato' Dr. Sidek also advised the new 'Y' generation - who would always seek to having changes - to not to forget history and for them to learn and understand more about Islam.

He, however, noted that they had the right to make comparisons between an Islamic country and another country especially in the aspects of peace and prosperity. He also emphasised on the importance of integrity, fairness and truthful for a wrong decision could impact the fate of future generation.

He added that it was the same with academicians when conducting researchers for every fact received, it needed to be analysed,

studied and a hypothesis made to ensure that each detail was accurate and factual.

Among the guests who attended the event was UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd. Yunus, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin.



*As such, in an effort to make sharing of knowledge a way of life in the society, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) organised a discourse and invited prominent academican Professor Dato' Dr. Sidek Baba of Internatinal Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)*





In a move to inculcate the practise of knowledge sharing, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) organised a programme 'Professor and the Public' by presenting two academicians – UMP Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz and Professor Dr. Mohd. Ridzuan Nordin from the Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology (FSTI).

The programme was held at MS Garden Hotel, Kuantan on April 30, 2013 and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin was the moderator.

Professor Dr. Mohd. Ridzuan spoke in the first session and the topic was 'Educating the Malay Children, Core to Nation Empowerment' while Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham discussed about 'Lynas: Fact or Folly'.

Professor Dr. Mohd. Ridzuan touched on the National Higher Education Fund Corporation 1997 (Act 566) that paved the way to the setting up of the National Higher Education Fund Corporation which was aimed at producing quality human resource by providing opportunity to every person to pursue tertiary education.

"Realising the importance of extending

## A PROGRAMME 'PROFESSOR WITH THE PUBLIC' PROMOTES SHARING OF EXPERTISE

education access, the government launched an education philosophy - a transition to a more democratic approach that allows people from all walks to obtain quality tertiary education," he said.

He also took the time to explain about the historical aspect of education in Malaysia, starting from the post-independence era.

On the second topic involving rare earth, Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham said health, environment and safety became public interest, locally and abroad, following the uproar over Lynas Advanced Material Plant (L.A.M.P).

"This talk gives a clearer picture about problems in chemical industrial project

investments and public perception. We will share experiences and from the academic perspective and real situations that can help do good for the public," said Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham, who had been involved in many rare earth-related researches.

Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham is also Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) and a Professor at the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA).

He added that in line with Malaysia progressing into a developed country, there were many on-going mega project investments as well as those in the pipeline.







*The public was advised to seek the truth and to take into consideration several aspects and sources including scientific facts and to pose questions to those who were informed on the subject*

However, due to misunderstanding and interests of certain quarters, it became controversial and caused uneasiness among the people. Now, there were already talks about the *Refinery and Petrochemical Integrated Development (RAPID)* project in Pengerang, Johor.

"In facing challenges such as this, it is pertinent for all parties, be it the government, industry, decision-makers, public and others to reach to a conclusion based on the right facts that included scientific facts," he added.

"The public was advised to seek the truth and to take into consideration several aspects

and sources including scientific facts and to pose questions to those who were informed on the subject," said Dato' Ir Dr. Badhrulhisham who sits in Malaysia Science Academy (MSA)'s Rare Earth Action Committee, is Chairman of UMP Rare Earth Research Action Committee and a spokesman for the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) on rare earth.

On Lynas factory, he said all factory operations as well as other things had risks but the question was whether the risks could be managed or minimised so as not to cause harm to public safety, health and the environment.

He added that there were many reasons to why the company picked Malaysia to make its investment and among them were the laws were clear and did not always change, sound industrial facilities and infrastructure and plenty of conversant and skilled workers.

Also present at the event was UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim.

More than 200 people comprising Village Development and Security Committee (JKKK) members and residents of Kuantan turned up to listen to the talks.





## UMP COLLABORATES WITH MTDS

*The co-operations will involve works in research, exchange of student and staff and developing of academic programme.*







Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Malaysian Turkish Dialogue Society (MTDS) to pave the way for co-operations with partners from institutes of higher learning (IHTs) in Turkey.

The co-operations will involve works in research, exchange of student and staff and developing of academic programme.

MTDS is a research and social organisation that helps develop and deliver new, effective ideas through cultural activities, promote unity and produce proactive citizens and these will be extended to Malaysia through networks formed with Turkey.

According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, UMP had always

taken the effort to increase and strengthen its international links by participating in a variety of initiatives with the aim of achieving academic excellence.

He added that opportunities were wide open for UMP to form strategic alliances with IHTs in Turkey especially in engineering and technology areas and at the same time, exposed to the country's cultures.

In this context, UMP's International Office was responsible in identifying potential partners to form the co-operations, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said in his speech at the signing ceremony held at Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on March 14, 2013.

He also said UMP was focused on implementing its 2011-2015 Strategic Plan and

one of the key result areas was on branding, in line with its aspiration of becoming a world-class technology university.

In the signing of MoU, UMP was represented by Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato' Dr. Ir. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz. MTDS was represented by its President, Dr. Alettin Duman and Academic Centre Director, Dr. Anvarjon Ahmedov.

Also present were International Office Director, Associate Professor Dr. Ainol Haryati Ibrahim and Industry and Community Networking Division Director (BJIM), Professor Dr. Zulkefli Yaacob.



# UMP FORGED TIES WITH FOUR UNIVERSITIES FROM TURKEY

*These collaborations involve developing areas of research, academic, post-graduate studies and short-term academic programme for undergraduates and dual degree programmes*

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) signed memorandums of understanding with four universities from Turkey that would pave the way for collaborations in academic and research programmes.

The universities were SuleymanSah University, Sakarya University, Karabujk University and Sercuk University.

UMP was represented by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz.

The four universities were represented by SuleymanSah University Rector Professor Dr.

Huseyin Ekiz, Sakarya University Rector Professor Dr. Muzaffer Elmas, Karabujk University Rector Professor Dr. Burhanettin Inem and Sercuk University Rector Professor Dr. Hakki Gokbel.

Also present was Turkey Higher Education Executive Board of Member, Professor Dr. Durmus Gunay.

According to Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir, the collaborations were a result of two-month efforts by UMP and Malaysian-Turkish Dialogue Society (MTDS) to explore opportunities in the academic field in Turkey.

He believed that the ties forged would further strengthen the relationship between the





Governments of Malaysia and Turkey.

In fact, the higher education sector in both countries had huge potentials waiting to be explored he added.

“These collaborations involve developing areas of research, academic, post-graduate studies and short-term academic programme for undergraduates and dual degree programmes,” he said in his speech at The Royale Bintang Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on May 14, 2013.

He also said UMP was fully focused on implementing the UMP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 which included a key result area on branding so as to strategically put in place the best approach to

create a global brand.

This was in line with UMP’s goal of being a world-class technology university, he added.

Dato’ Dr. Daing also said two of the University’s Key Result Area (UKRA) involved improving academic quality and branding for strategic positioning so as to create significant strategic alliances.

He hoped the collaborations forged with the Turkish universities would benefit the staff and undergraduates taking part in the exchange programmes, industrial training, those involving transfer of credits, sabbatical and academic consultancy for the next five years.

He also welcomed staff and undergraduates of all four Turkish universities to get involve as well so they would be able to enjoy the benefits of the programmes.

Professor Dr. Durmus said they believed all parties would gain from the cooperation forged especially in the areas of engineering and technology.

Also present were International Office Director, Associate Professor Dr Ainol Haryati Ibrahim and Dean of Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering, Professor Dr. Jasni Mohamed.

# UMP STRIKES A PARTNERSHIP WITH MERCEDES BENZ SDN. BHD.



forged, it will produce more competent and competitive graduates of various aspects.

The industrial training placement in Mercedes Benz really goes well with undergraduates pursuing the dual degree programme offered by UMP.

Prior to this, Mercedes Benz has offered scholarships to UMP undergraduates taking the dual degree programme at Hochschule Karlsruhe, University of Applied Sciences Jerman, (HsKA).

Both UMP and Mercedes Benz Sdn. Bhd. were also interested in exploring the possibilities of working together in matters related to academics and research including having undergraduate industrial placement in the company.

In 2010, UMP made a pact with Germany's technical and engineering university, HsKA, that offered dual degree programme in mechatronic engineering. Graduated will obtain two degrees certified by the Engineering Accreditation Council (EAC) - a professional body that recognised engineering programmes in Malaysia and the Washington Accord, in Germany.

The MoU was witnessed by UMP Board of

*UMP is strategically located in Pekan, the site of the automotive industry and among the companies operating in the area are DRB-Hicom, Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen and Toyota. This programme is capable of fulfilling the requirements specified of a sector that is fast developing.*

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) created history again when it signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Mercedes Benz Sdn Bhd that paved the way for mutual cooperation in strengthening, promoting and developing areas in academic, research and development of the human capital on March 8, 2013.

The main objective of the MoU is to produce qualified and highly-skilled engineers as well as to provide student training placements in Mercedes Benz.

This cooperation is also a strategic alliance between UMP and Mercedes Benz in providing training to UMP undergraduates, consultation as required for academic matters and research and development of the human capital.

As such, it is hoped that with the cooperation







Directors' Chairman, Dato' Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib, Germany Ambassador, Dr. Gunter Gruber and Malaysia Automotive Association President Datuk Aishah Shaikh Ahmad.

UMP was represented by its Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) Profesor Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz while HsKA by its Rector Professor Dr. Karl-Heinz Meisel and Deputy President Professor Dr. Dieter Hopfel.

Mercedes Benz was represented by its Deputy President (Financial and Administration) Micheal Cremer.

According to Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir, the MoU was one of the internationalisation activities - an important agenda of UMP's Strategic Plan 2011-2015.

"UMP is strategically located in Pekan, the site of the automotive industry and among the companies operating in the area are DRB-Hicom, Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen and Toyota. This programme is capable of fulfilling the requirements specified of a sector that is fast developing.

"The automotive industry in Malaysia still needs a highly-skilled workforce who meets the needs of today's automotive industry and UMP will provide such able graduates," he said in his speech at the MoU signing held at Maya Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

He added that internationalising an institute of higher learning was crucial in charting its future



course and in becoming a world-class university.

"The dual degree programme offered by UMP is designed according to the same model used by HsKA. In fact, the undergraduates will have the opportunity to learn the German language while core subjects will be taught by HsKA professors.

"A six-month undergraduate industrial placement in a German company will bring good benefits for the undergraduates for they will gain industrial experience, an insight into German's internationally recognised standard and quality.

"For this, the cooperation will further enhance education excellence of UMP and in making UMP a regional education hub," he said.

He added that the cooperation worked out between the two parties would ensure that more competent, competitive and flexible graduates would be groomed.



Daing Nasir said UMP would also share its experience and knowledge in various fields for this would benefit all parties involved.

"This is seen as added values for UMP and it can be an advantage to UMP to attract potential undergraduates," he added.

Also present were HsKA Automotive Coordinator, Prof. Dr. Maurice Andre Ketter, HsKA Mechatronic Coordinator Professor Dr. Robert Weiss, Higher Education Ministry's Industrial Relations Division Director, Professor Dr. Shamsudin Baharin and German Academic and Cultural Centre (GACC) Director, Brian Trenaman.

# UMP AND 3 FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES SHARED EXPERTISE IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY



*The programme is a platform for participants including lecturers and undergraduates to share the latest research findings as well as to boost the undergraduates' interest to take the lead in the manufacturing industry especially in the future of the casting area,*



By: MOHD ZAIRULNIZAM MOHD ZAWAWI

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and three other foreign universities - Iwate University of Japan, Hanbat University of Korea, Dang Liang University of China, pooled together their expertise in manufacturing industry involving the mold, die and casting technology and took part in the URR Global Human Development Programme for Asian Manufacturing Industry 2013 in Iwate University of Japan on February 26, 2013.

The programme was officially launched by Iwate University President, Professor Katsumi Fujii.

UMP was represented by Deputy Dean of Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering, Dr. Ahmad Razlan Yusoff, lecturer Mohd Zairulnizam Mohd Zawawi and two final-year undergraduates, Engku Erysyd Engku Abas and Farah Amira Mohd Ghazali.

Dr. Ahmad Razlan said the URR programme meant University + University and Region + Region and was aimed at fostering better international ties between Iwate University and other universities in the Asian region by coordinating the links with

these learning institutes.

"The programme is a platform for participants including lecturers and undergraduates to share the latest research findings as well as to boost the undergraduates' interest to take the lead in the manufacturing industry especially in the future of the casting area," he added.

He also said apart from presenting working papers, the participants exchanged ideas and views on the most recent technology and research conducted by their respective universities.

He added that a consensus was planned to form a consortium and an agreement on the matter would be signed by the four universities involved.

Dr. Ahmad Razlan said once the consortium was established, it would expect to further strengthen the existing relationships especially in research, cultural and student exchange and reinforce the ties with industries in the region.

"Apart from attending talks, they were exposed to the latest research findings related to technology in the manufacturing industry by other universities.

"They also discussed about student exchange programme, collaboration in international research works, organising international seminars on the manufacturing industry, working together in research with industries in the region, funding and developing beneficial projects," he added.

The group also visited a research centre in Kitakami City that adopted a concept 'Industry Centre of Excellence' (I-COE) that saw close ties developed between the university and surrounding industry especially in areas where high-tech equipment was utilised for research purposes.

Other places that they visited were the Citizen Tohoku Co. Ltd, Metal Technology Co. Ltd and a production factory in Kitakami.

In an effort to understand the Japanese culture, tradition and important historical events, the participants were taken for a tour at a handicraft centre, the Chusonji Temple and Kenji Miyazawa Memorial Museum in Hiraizumi.

The programme was hailed as successful as collaborations and sharing of research and culture had been further strengthened between UMP, Iwate University and other universities in the region.





## VICE-CHANCELLOR VISITS CHINA

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) forged ties with Hebei University (HBU) and Hebei University Science and Technology (HEBUST) in a move to strengthen programmes in academic, international and mobility involving students and staff of UMP.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the collaboration involved student industrial placement, academic, research, teaching staff and programmes at the Mandarin Language and Culture Centre (MLCC) and Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (CMLHS).

MLCC was set up with the objective of improving the command of Mandarin among students and to meet demands of the job market, be it locally or abroad.

"It is an innovation by UMP to spur economic growth in the East Coast Region by way of forging ties with universities in China," said Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir who led the university's delegation to the country.

The visit also saw an increase in collaborations between the universities.

Prior to this, UMP had already signed a MoU with HBU on January 5, 2010 which saw the establishment of MLCC in UMP.

Also present were Dean of Faculty of Chemical & Natural

Resources Engineering, Professor Ir. Dr. Jailani Salihon, MLCC Coordinator, Chong Ah Kow and an officer with the Vice-Chancellor Office, Emma Melati Burhanuddin.

According to Dato' Dr Daing Nasir, the collaboration forged would help produce graduates who were competitive and those catered to the needs of the industries - in line with UMP's Strategic Plan 2011-2015.

Dato' Dr Daing Nasir representing UMP, also signed an MoU with HBU, represented by its President Professor Fu Guangsheng.

Also present were HBU Deputy President Professor Wang Fengming, College of International Exchange and Education (CIEE), Professor Li, its Deputy Director, Professor Guo Fuliang, International Relation Deputy Director, Professor Cheng Enqing and CIEE Assistant Dean, Associate Professor Liang Weige.

HBU also appointed Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir as its Visiting Professor.

UMP's delegation also met HEBUST Deputy President, Professor Jin Zhanzhong and Chemical and Pharmaceutical Engineering Faculty Dean, Professor Rong Xinyu to discuss about future collaborations in areas relating to chemical and pharmaceutical engineering.

*It is an innovation by UMP to spur economic growth in the East Coast Region by way of forging ties with universities in China,*

# UNDERSTANDING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHEMICAL INDUSTRY



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) recently organised a public lecture that highlighted lessons learned from issues rose from the rare earth refinery plant operated at Lynas Advanced Material Plant (LAMP) in Gebeng, Kuantan.

The title was, 'Integrity, Science, Perception: Lessons From Controversies Among The Society in Malaysia Brought About By Issues Involving LYNAS.

One of the things learned from the controversies was that despite the hullabaloo, it had piqued the public's interest in wanting to know more about rare earth, be it from the scientific nature, the processing methods involved as well as its impact on the economy and environment.

According to Dean of Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA), Professor Ir. Dr. Jailani Salihon, it was well-timed that the public lecture was held during which rare earth was the issue being debated.

He added that it gave the opportunity to present the matter from an academic point of view, those relating to health, environment and safety – issues that had caught the attention of not

only the nation but also at the international level.

"This lecture aims to clarify problems faced in investments of chemical industrial projects and public perception by bringing in Professor Dato' Ir Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, a qualified academician, who will share some of his experience and expertise.

"From the explanations, we hope to clear the air from an intellectual perspective and to present the real situation so the public can benefit from it," he said in his remarks when introducing Professor Dato' Ir Dr. Badhrulhisham as the speaker at the talk held at Astaka Hall, UMP Gambang campus on March 20, 2013.

Professor Dato' Ir Dr. Badhrulhisham is also the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) and a Professor at the faculty.

In his talk, Professor Dato' Ir Dr. Badhrulhisham said in line with Malaysia moving towards becoming a developed nation, a lot of mega investment projects were brought into the country but some were turned into issues due to public concern - especially those relating to safety, health and environment.

Some of the projects that had come under

public scrutiny were Lynas Advanced Material Plant (L.A.M.P) and the Refinery and Petrochemical Integrated Development Project (RAPID) in Pengerang, Johor.

"In facing the challenges, it is important for all parties such as the government, industries, decision-makers, public and others to make decisions based on facts that included scientific facts when dealing with issues relating to integrity, science and perception," said Professor Dato' Ir Dr. Badhrulhisham, who was also appointed as a member in the Malaysia Science Academy (MSC)'s Rare Earth Work Committee and Chairman of UMP's Rare Earth Research Work Committee.

On the LYNAS plant, he said all the operations in plants had risks but the question was whether the risks could be managed and minimised without causing harm to public health and safety as well as the environment.

"The LYNAS plant is a chemical plant that produces rare earth metals from physical and chemical processes such as separation process. It is not a nuclear plant.

"In fact, it can be categorised as a low-risk plant, provided all safety, monitoring and enforcement





measures are conducted accordingly," said Professor Dato' Ir Dr. Badhrulhisham, who had vast industrial experience working at companies such as Cabot Corporation, SKS Refinery Sdn. Bhd. (a company owned by prominent corporate figure Tan Sri Mokhtar Bukhary) and the National Iranian Oil Company.

He added that before a plant could be built, all decisions relating to investing into a location were based on various factors such as attractive and strategic locations.

He also highlighted issues relating to the Asian Rare Earth (ARE) project that manufactured almost similar products but added that ARE used different raw material – tin tailing, while LYNAS sourced the raw material from mining rare earth concentrates at Mount Weld, Australia.

"The radioactive level emitted in ARE project is much higher than LYNAS and the residue has high contents of uranium and thorium. It is the same with the radioactive level in ARE residues in Bukit Merah, which is 60 times higher than what is produced by LYNAS.

"Radiation exposure emitted by LYNAS plant to members of the public is 0.02mSv while the national and international law on the matter stipulated that the reading is not more than 1.0 Msv/yearly," he said.

He added that UMP researchers had produced journals relating to rare earth and were also currently involved in the setting up of a research centre on the mineral, together with experts from Germany and China.

The public lecture attracted more than 500 people comprising members of the public,



academicians and representatives from institutes of higher learning, local authorities, government agencies and industries.

Among the agencies were Kuantan Municipal Council (MPK), Department of Environment, Malaysia Science Academy, Felra and Commission of Energy.

Also present were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd. Yunus, Higher Education Ministry Head of Secretary Assistant, Zarina Ismail and Triang State Assemblyman, Leong Ngah Ngah.

*This lecture aims to clarify problems faced in investments of chemical industrial projects and public perception by bringing in Professor Dato' Ir Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, a qualified academician, who will share some of his experience and expertise.*



*The programme was a platform where experts share their knowledge and in the process, help to enlighten society on issues relating to engineering technology that would help cater to the future needs of the industries*

# ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY IS A NECESSITY TO MEET INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Faculty of Technology organised a Public Lecture on Engineering Technology at Royale Bintang Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on May 15, 2013.

The programme was a platform where experts share their knowledge and in the process, help to enlighten society on issues relating to engineering technology that would help cater to the future needs of the industries.

The invited speaker was Professor Dr. Promod Vohra, Dean of Engineering and Engineering Technology College, Northern Illinois University (NIU), US.

The lecture was titled, 'Engineering Technology in a Global World: Opportunities and Challenges'.

Professor Dr. Promod has vast experience in industrial engineering and electrical engineering especially in digital system, design skill, industrial training, new technology and technology application based on the needs of an industry.

Prior to his involvement in the academic field, Professor Dr. Promod had worked for five years in the industry.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the lecture was held in conjunction with NIU's visit to UMP.

The visit was to discuss about three programmes – the bachelor's degree engineering technology that involved technology engineering (electrical), engineering technology (energy and environment) and technology engineering (manufacturing).

"The programme is a result of a collaboration





forged between UMP and NIU. The discussions included matters relating to engineering technology curriculum structure and transfer of curriculum from NIU to UMP," he said after the lecture.

He added that discussions with the industry showed that there was a growing need for engineers to understand the reality and the variety of elements in order to meet the wants of the nation's industries.

Also present at the talk were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor

Dato' Ir Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Faculty of Technology Dean, Associate Professor Dr. Abdullah Ibrahim, Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering Dean, Associate Professor Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff and Industrial and Community Networking Division Director (BJIM), Professor Dr. Zulkefli Ya'akob.

Some 200 people comprising those from the industry and related agencies turned up to listen to the lecture organised by UMP's Faculty of Technology.



## 2 RESEARCHERS WON GOLD MEDALS AT ARCHIMEDES RUSSIA

By: NOOR SYAHIDAH SABRAN

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) continued to strike gold at the international level when it won two gold medals in the 16th International Salon of Invention and Innovation Technologies (ARCHIMEDES) held at Sokolniki Exhibition Center in Moscow, Russia on April 5, 2013.

The gold medalists were Associate Professor Dr. Arun Gupta from Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) and Associate Professor Dr. Noraziah Ahmad from Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering Faculty (FSKKP).

Dr. Arun Gupta's winning entry was titled 'Development of Bio Adhesive Using Lignin and Soy Protein for Wood Composite' and Dr. Noraziah's work was titled 'Effective Persistence Layer Synchronous Replication for Heterogenous Distributed Database'.

Dr. Arun Gupta's research was on using of bio-adhesive lignin and soy protein to produce wood of better quality. The work also involved other researchers including Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, G.K Chua and Mohammed Nasir.

As for Dr. Noraziah, her research was related to an organisation's distributed database that required huge data or one that could be outfitted to other branches.

"The system is created in such that it will automatically manage the data if there is a malfunction," she said.

The work involved other researchers as well including Abul Hashem Beg, Associate Professor Dr. Ahmed N Abdalla, Ainul Azila Che Fauzi and Mohd. Amer Mohd. Azhar.

It was interesting to note that both research products also received special awards and were acknowledged by the Centrul De Studii Ci Cercetari Psihotronice Si Ufologice, Romania for producing highly-potential projects.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, who dropped by at the exhibition, expressed his delight over the win.

He said due recognition was given to research products from UMP and that these products were competitively capable of doing well at the international scene.

"The jury panel also gave positive feedback on the development of innovation and research projects from UMP that attracted the international community," said Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir, adding, he hoped more researchers would stamp their marks at the international level and bring more honours to UMP.



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) won big in the US when four of its researchers brought home four gold medals and a special award following their successful feats at the 'Invention and New Product Exposition' (INPEX 2013) held at Monroeville Convention Centre, Pittsburgh, US.

The four researchers were Dr Hadi Manap (Faculty of Technology – FT), Professor Dr Jose Rajan (Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology – FSTI), Mohd Najib Razali (Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering - FKKSA) and Professor Dr Jasni Mohamad Zain (Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering - FSKKP).

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim said, INPEX was the biggest exhibition in the US and it was managed by Invent Help.

He added that it was a platform where a variety of inventions, new products and innovations were put on display.

It was also the gathering of creators, designers, entrepreneurs, universities and industrial representatives of the country, he said.

"UMP researcher Dr Hadi Manap garnered two gold medals in the electrical/electronic category and safety/industrial control category. His winning entry was titled 'Real Time NH3 Monitoring and Alarm System'. It gives out alarm and uses the light system.

"This chemical research finding will be able to help industries to trace the presence of ammonia gas in a short period of time – as fast as three seconds as compared to the normal method that detects the gas in six minutes.

"This finding can help prevent deaths in incidents such as ammonia leakage, accident or fire," he told a press conference held to announce the researchers' successful feats at Bukit Gambang Resort on July 1, 2013.

Professor Dr Jose Rajan won a gold medal in the agriculture category for his work, 'Clean Energy Storage Device from Oil Palm Waste'.

He discovered that energy (carbon) could be sourced from oil palm waste, specifically from the kernel and that these seeds were abundant in the oil palm industry in Malaysia.

Others involved in the research were FSTI Dean, Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff, Nurul Khairiyah Mohd Zain, Izan Izwan Misnon, Radiyah Abd Aziz and Professor Dato' Dr Rosli Mohd Yunus.

## UMP RESEARCH WORKS RECEIVED RECOGNITION IN THE US



Another gold medallist was Mohd Najib Razali who won in the environment category for his work titled, 'Innovative Green Technology Waste Emulsion Treatment System (From Waste to Wealth)'.

His research revolved around the situation faced by industries in having to incur high expenses in treating waste oil emulsion discharged by the manufacturing industry.

According to Mohd Najib, the study conducted found that factories in the manufacturing industry in Malaysia produced between 50 and 60 tonnes of the emulsion stuff monthly.

The new technology uses a mixture of various natural solvents to separate impurity in the sediment as a by-product.

He said its unique features included expediting flocculation – removing oil from the emulsion waste and water filtration process so the waste could be safely discharged into the river.

As such, the technology would not only save cost but could also be recycled for industrial use, he added.

The product was jointly carried out with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr Rosli Mohd Yunus and Associate Professor Dr. Abdurahman H Nour.

UMP has also found a quick means to identify timbers – using 'Automated Wood Species Recognition for Malaysian Timber'.

The research team, led by FSKKP Dean, Professor Dr. Jasni Mohamad Zain discovered a new way to identify timbers by using a digital software system and that it won a special award for Best Invention in Pacific Brim.

The method is not only user-friendly but also reduces the time for results produced are accurate and fast.

Most importantly, it is cheap and does not require an expert to determine the type of a timber.

Other members in the team were Zalili Musa, Tuty Asmawati Abdul Kadir, Abbas Salimi Lokman and Chu Kai Chuan.

Dato' Dr Daing congratulated all the winners and researchers and hoped that their successes would drive others to continue to acculturate the world of research and innovation.

"The success achieved at the international invention competition is not something that is easy to pull off but this university has demonstrated that the world recognises UMP's research works," he said.



# UMP GARNERED 18 MEDALS AND A SPECIAL AWARD AT ITEX 2013

*The competition was organised by Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS), together with World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). It was into its 24<sup>th</sup> year*

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) won 18 medals and one special award in the International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition 2013 (ITEX '13) held at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) from May 9-11, 2013.

UMP took home 12 gold medals and six silver medals.

The competition was organised by Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS), together

with World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). It was into its 24<sup>th</sup> year.

It was even more gratifying when a research work by Associate Professor Dr Abdurrahman Hamid Nour of the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FSKKA) titled – 'Water as an Alternative Energy and Pollutant Control' won the judges' heart who awarded him with a gold medal and named him as the recipient to Henry Goh Special Award (Best Green Technology Invention).

His work was about water as an alternative energy in controlling pollution.

Dr. Ahmad Ziad Sulaiman, also from FSKKA, won gold medal for his research titled, 'Effect of Ultrasound on Enzymatic Extraction of *Eurycoma Longifolia* (Tongkat Ali) for Cosmeceutical and Nutraceutical Application'.

The research focused on methods to increase herbal extraction yield of *Tongkat Ali* that used a fusion of ultrasound-enzymatic technology. It was



suitable for use in the cosmetic industry.

Another researcher, Rosyati Hamid of the Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (FKEE) won a gold medal for her work titled, 'An Automated Detection and Quantification of Pus Cells and Epithelial Cells for Sputum Quality Testing with Moving Stage Using Biological Microscope' – a system that could detect and count virus and cell insputum and pus in order to obtain a more consistent result while Dr. Tan Ling Ling@Chong Ling Ling of Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology (FSTI) received a gold medal for producing a device that could detect nitrate in bird nests.

Others who won gold medals included Associate Professor Dr. Ghazi Faisal Najmudeen (FKKSA), Associate Professor Dr. Maksudur Rahman Khan (FKKSA), Mohd Najib Razali (FKKSA), Ahmad Rosli Abdul Manaf (Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering), Professor Dr. Kamal Zuhairi Zamli (Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering), Dr. Chong Kwok Feng (FSTI) and Dr.

Gurumurthy Hegde (FSTI).

Researchers who were awarded with silver medals were FKKSA lecturer Associate Professor Dr Md Maksudur Rahman Khan, Dr Norrozila Sulaiman (FSKKP), Professor Dr Jose Rajan (FSTI) and Associate Professor Dr Md Lutfor Rahman (FSTI).

Two other silver medals were contributed by Modern Language and Humanity Science Centre (PBMSK) under the education category through Mardhiyyah Zamani's 'Zikir Intelligent' and Dr. Norrihan Sulan's 'A Corpus of Thematic Quran Verses'.

UMP also won the best booth design in the competition.

The exhibition, with the theme 'Engineering and Technology', was officially opened by former Science Advisor to the Prime Minister Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Haji Omar Abdul Rahman.

More than 500 research projects, locally and abroad, were submitted in ITEX 2013.



# UMP GARNERED 13 MEDALS, TWO AWARDS AT MTE 2013



By: NOR ASYIKIN BASHARUDDIN

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) researchers collected 13 medals and two awards in various categories at the Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) 2013 on February 21-23, 2013.

It was held at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), Kuala Lumpur.

With a theme, 'Engineering and Technology', the expo attracted more than 400 research projects in the country as well as abroad.

UMP won four gold medals, four silver

medals, five bronze medals and two special awards out of the 15 research products contested.

One of the gold medalists was Professor Dr. Jose Rajan from the Science and Industrial Technology Faculty (FSTI) with his winning entry titled, 'High Performance Supercapacitor Using Activated Carbon derived from Waste Palm Oil Kernel Shell.'

The research was about using waste palm oil kernel shell for high performance supercapacitor to produce power and energy.

Professor Dr. Jose Rajan also won a special

award, 'Best of the Best Award', for the research work.

Another gold medalist was researcher and Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKKP) Dean, Professor Dr. Jasni Mohamad Zain with his work, 'Automated Wood Species Recognition for Malaysia Timber'.

The research was about using information technology for wood identification in Malaysia.

FSKKP's Associate Professor Dr. Noraziah Ahmad also won a gold for her work titled, 'Effective Persistence Layer Synchronous Replication for Distributed Database





*All the winners and participants gave high commitment in this year's event and the success garnered was a positive sign and commendable achievement that showed UMP's researchers were capable of making discoveries that were more innovative, creative and that would benefit the community and country.*

Environment' – a data base application that provided a more secured data storage system.

Another winning entry was by Dr. Arun Gupta of the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) who worked on 'Development of Bio-Adhesive using Lignin and Soy Protein for Wood Composite'. It was on producing timber and strengthening the timber composite with soy.

UMP also won silver medals – FSTI Professor Dr. Jose Rajan's work titled, 'A Knowledge-based Design For Highly Efficient Dye-Sensitised Solar Cells, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Earth

Resources Nadiah Mokhtar's work on 'Eco-Limestone Filter For Leachate Treatment', Dr. Ir. Said Nurdin of FKKSA's work titled 'Activated Egg Shell Waste Catalyst (ESWC) For Biodiesel Synthesis From Jatropha Curcas Oil' and Dr. Hadi Manap of Faculty of Technology (FTec) with his work 'Real Time Nh3 Monitoring System Using An Open-Path Optical Method'.

UMP's booth also scored first placing in the best exhibition booth category as well as an award for being 'The Most Visitor -Friendly Booth' in MTE this year.

All the winners and participants gave high

commitment in this year's event and the success garnered was a positive sign and commendable achievement that showed UMP's researchers were capable of making discoveries that were more innovative, creative and that would benefit the community and country.

MTE 2013 was officially launched by Malaysian Association of Research Scientists (MARS) President, Dato' Dr. Mohamed Arifin Aton.



# 3 RESEARCHERS DID UMP PROUD WITH THEIR INVENTIONS HONOURED BY MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION





*By holding events such as this, it would further enhance strategic collaboration and rapport between institutes of higher learning with the industries, central agency, private sector, non-governmental organisation relating and investor.*

Three researchers from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) were honoured at 'Malam Citra Inovasi' (Innovation Icon Night) organised by the Ministry of Higher Education held at JW Marriot Hotel, Putrajaya on March 5, 2013.

They were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA) researcher, Eng. Abdul Syukor Abd Razak and Ustaz Asar Abdul Karim from the Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (PBMSK).

Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli supervised an invention of a technology that involved processes for recovering used lubricant oil to produce base oil which helped to reduce dependence on crude oil virgin base, which was 20 percent cheaper than the market price. It also helped in the process of used oil-related green house conservation in vehicle engine oil pollution.

Eng. Abdul Syukor was recognised for his research on 'Pisoptera' – a green technology product that used oil palm waste or empty fruit bunch to solve termite problems.

Another researcher honoured was Ustaz Asar Abdul Karim who created computer software 'AsarFont' – it solved problems related to Roman Jawi characters. His research unravelled the difficulties of Jawi software that used only one font method.

'AsarFont' has been useful to J-QAF teachers in their teaching session and the product has been well-received by the public and organisations.

Prizes were presented by the Ministry's Secretary General, Datuk Ab. Rahim Md. Noor who represented Minister, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

In his text speech read by Datuk Ab Rahim, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled commended the determination showed by the researchers in cultivating innovation and creativity among the general public by producing quality and practical products.

The ministry also played an important role in making innovation as the main driving force to spur the country's progress.

By holding events such as this, it would further enhance strategic collaboration and rapport

between institutes of higher learning with the industries, central agency, private sector, non-governmental organisation relating and investor.

AsarFont creator, Asar Abdul Karim said he was grateful with the tribute given by the ministry.

"I felt appreciated and it also helped to raise the spirit of researchers because their products have been successfully commercialised and benefitted the people," he said.

Eng. Abdul Syukor Haji Abd Razak said the success and recognition given could build up competition in the invention of various products that would be useful not only to the people but also environment.

Among the guests who attended the event was UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim.

A total of 94 inventions from public and private institutes of higher learning, polytechnics and community colleges were honoured in the event.



# CITREX SHOWCASED 179 UMP'S RESEARCH WORKS

*The increase in the number of this year's entries from 130 to 179 showed that UMP researchers have the zest and commitment to produce quality works and innovative researches that are conducted not only for the interest of the university but also that of the country*



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) displayed 179 research projects produced by its undergraduates and lecturers in a move to nurture creativity and innovation as well as to acculturate research that would contribute to the nation's future technology.

The Creativity, Innovation, Technology and Research (CITREX 2013) was organised by Research and Innovation Department and Student Affairs and Alumni Department (SAFFAD) for three days beginning March 28, 2013 at UMP Sports Complex.

A total of 87 undergraduates and 92 faculty members representing eight faculties in UMP displayed their research works that were evaluated from a set of criteria.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the programme was the best platform to assess creativity of researchers and capability of its undergraduates so they would continue to contribute to the nation's technology development.

"The increase in the number of this year's entries from 130 to 179 showed that UMP researchers have the zest and commitment to produce quality works and innovative researches that are conducted not only for the interest of the university but also that of the country.

"The programme also heeds the call made by the government which declares 2013 as the Science and Innovation Year," he said when in his speech at the closing of the exhibition and prize presentation ceremony.

Also present was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr Rosli Mohd. Yunus.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir added that the researchers' ability to make new findings, and knowledge and research-based technology would boost UMP's name at the international level.





He also hoped that UMP would, one day, be one of the main names in the research area.

CITREX Chairman, Associate Professor Dr. Zularisam Abd. Wahid said the works by undergraduates and faculty members were evaluated based on a set of criteria that would spur them to carry out researches.

"Out of the total entries submitted, 32 won gold medals, 67 were awarded silver medals and 65 received bronze medals," Dr. Zularisam said.

Associate Professor Dr. Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim from the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resource Engineering (FKKSA) was named as the recipient for the Best of the Best Award under the faculty member category.

Her research project, 'Xymas', comprised the use of acid hydrolysis and enzyme reaction to create natural sweetener 'Xylitol'. She used wood powder to make the sweetener.

The product, which won a gold medal, could be used to prevent dental caries and tooth decay.

For the student category, the award was won by undergraduate Siti Hawa Apandi from the Faculty

of Computer Systems & Software Engineering. Her project was titled "Smart Attendance".

She created a software that would solve attendance problems faced by schools in Kuantan and for the schools to be able to monitor the situation more effectively.

Siti Hawa, who suffers from spinal muscular atrophy, a disease that weakens her nerves, was accompanied by her mother Zaidah Tamjis throughout her schooling years.

For the Special Green Technology award, Mohd Najib Razali from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources took home the gold medal with his project, 'Innovative Green Technology - Waste Emulsion Treatment System'.

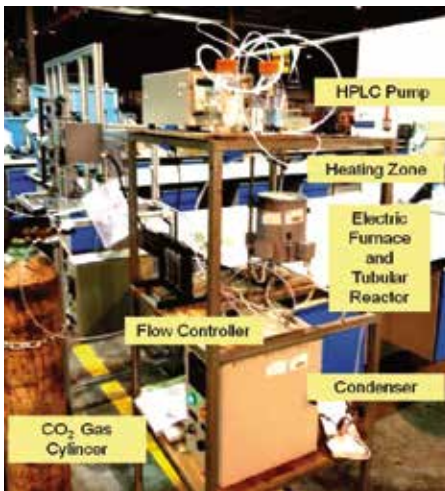
His research finding involved resolving problems relating to environment caused by industrial waste that would involve lesser cost and for the industrial waste be reused or created into other products such as grease.

More than 1,000 staff and undergraduates and those from various institutes of higher learning (IPTs) in Kuantan turned up for the exhibition.

Among the IPTs were Sultan Ahmad Shah Polytechnic, Kuantan Community College and Pahang Matriculation College.



# UMP MASTER'S STUDENT WON COMPETITION ON RESEARCH PAPER



*She won a travel grant of RM3,000 to attend the prestigious 9th World Congress of Chemical Engineering to be held from August 18-23 at Seoul, Korea*



By: DR. JOLIUS GIMBUN

Faculty of Chemical and Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) master's student Lee Hua Chyn was announced as the winner of a Research Paper Competition organised by the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM)'s Chemical Engineering Technical Division (CETD).

She won a travel grant of RM3,000 to attend the prestigious 9th World Congress of Chemical Engineering to be held from August 18-23 at Seoul, Korea.

CETD Chairman, Professor Ir. Dr. Dominic C. Y. Foo presented the prize to Lee, who is jointly-supervised by Drs. Cheng Chin Kui and Dr. Jolius Gim bun.

Lee's paper, 'Bio-Syngas Production From Glycerol Dry Reforming Over Cement Clinker-Supported Nickel Catalyst' was about application of cement clinker-supported nickel catalyst for glycerol dry reforming to produce bio-syngas (H<sub>2</sub>

and CO).

From her work, Lee discovered that carbon deposition during glycerol reforming was minimised owing to the natural presence of calcium oxide (CaO) in the cement clinker. In addition, syngas suitable for Fischer-Tropsch synthesis could be obtained.

Her project was funded by MTUN-CoE grant (RDU121216) and Science Fund (RDU130501), in collaboration with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suzana Yusup from the Mission-Oriented Research, Green Technology at Universiti Teknologi Petronas and Dr. Loh Soh Kheang from the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB).

"Three UMP research papers were shortlisted for the oral presentation held at the Ingenieur IEM Building currently. The shortlisted research papers were evaluated from the aspects of writing (technical paper), novelty and innovation," said Dr. Jolius.

The finalists were Lee's work, Siew Kah Weng's

'Glycerol Dry Reforming Over La-Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Catalyst,' and 'Microwave Extraction of Phenolic Acid And Flavonoids From Orthosiphon Stamineus,' by Pang Sook Fun.

The second place for the competition went to Ng Tong Lip, a PhD student from University of Nottingham, Malaysian campus with a paper titled 'A Disjunction Modeling Approach For Synthesis And Optimisation Of Industrial Symbiosis in Palm Oil Industry'.





The event attracted more than 500 young researchers who showcased 289 research products, including entries from Cambodia, Canada, India, South Korea and Iran.



## UNDERGRADUATES GARNERED 6 GOLD MEDALS AND THREE SPECIAL AWARDS AT I-ENVEX

By: ABDUL RAHMAN AHMAD

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates won six gold medals, three silver medals and six bronze medals at the International Innovation and Engineering Exhibition (i-ENVEX) on April 19, 2013 at Arau, Perlis.

The exhibition was organised by Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) together with the Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

One of the winning works was by Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKCP) undergraduate Siti Hawa Apanidi titled, 'Smart Attendance Management System'.

Siti Hawa, who is physically disabled, won a gold medal for the work. She was also presented with the i-ENVEX Best Award (ICT Multimedia, Telecommunications, Electricity and Electronic). Her research was supervised by the faculty's lecturers, Rozlina Mohamed and Muhammad

Zulfahmi Toh Abdullah@Toh Chin Lain.

Mohd. Faiz A. Razak and Nurul Hidayah Muhammad@Ghazali from the Faculty of Chemical and Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) won a gold medal with their project, 'Ultrasonic Assisted Transesterification of WCO Catalysed by Cement Clinker Based Catalyst' and were supervised by the faculty's lecturer Dr. Jolius Gimbut.

They also received a special award - Sir Anthony J. Leggett Nobel Award - and cash prize of RM1,000. The research also included undergraduates Nur Syazwani Mohd. Noor, Said Nordin and Liyana Amer Shah as well.

Other gold medalists were FKKSA undergraduates Muhammad Noor Azreen Mohd Khairu and Noor Adilah Md Salehan with their work on 'Recycling of Monoethanolamine (MEA) Wastewater Using Bioadsorbents Treatment System (From Waste to Wealth)'. They also received a special award - INOVA Young Inventor Award, which was sponsored by the Croatia Inventors Association.



"The research involved treating chemical waste (monoethanolamine) by using natural waste absorbent such as chitosan, rice husks, banana skins and sugar cane pulps that were recycled through continuous absorption process," he said when met after the prize-giving ceremony.

He also acknowledged his lecturers' role in making the project a success and that they had helped a lot especially when making preparation during the evaluation process.

He added that the support and motivation rendered was greatly appreciated.

The research was supervised by lecturers Mohd. Najib Razali and Dr. Anwaruddin Hisyam. It also involved other undergraduates - Noor Adilah Md. Salehan, Noradlinnaini Mihatmad, Zulfahzi Zulkifli and Mohd. Ebran Razali.

Other recipients of gold medals were undergraduates from FKKSA - Nurul Asyikin Mohd Azam, Che Mohd Aizal Che Mohd and M. Shalini as well as Mohd Syaifulsyam and Hajar Athirah Mohd Sukri from Faculty of Industrial Science and Technology (FSTI).

Chancellor of UniMAP, His Highness Syed Faizuddin Putra Ibnu Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail presented the prizes and officially closed the ceremony.

The event attracted more than 500 young researchers who showcased 289 research products, including entries from Cambodia, Canada, India, South Korea and Iran.

## JAMUNAA WON TWO AWARDS IN THE CHINESE BRIDGE 2013



*The Chinese Bridge Competition is a contest that tests non-Chinese participants' fluency in Mandarin. The participants are undergraduates from colleges and universities*

By: YONG YING MEI

Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKSP), Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduate Jamunaa d/o Patchappan, 23, won two awards in the Chinese Bridge 2013 held at Hunan, China that began on July 1 until July 12, 2013.

Jamunaa took home the Excellent Award and Charismatic Award. She also received a scholarship sponsored by HANBAN in China for her to study Mandarin language in the country.

Mandarin language teacher and Jamunaa's coach, Yong Ying Mei, said the judges and audience were charmed by the Chinese dance number 'Burung Merak' (Peacock) and Jamunaa's

speech, titled 'Jodoh Saya Dengan Chinese Bridge' (My Fate With Chinese Bridge).

"The Chinese Bridge Competition is a contest that tests non-Chinese participants' fluency in Mandarin. The participants are undergraduates from colleges and universities.

"The competition is organised by Kongzi Institute headquarters in Beijing, China or also known as HANBAN.

"Jamunaa is the national champion for Chinese Bridge competition held in May. She was then nominated by Institute Kongzi in Universiti Malaya to represent Malaysia at the international level competition in China," said Yong who accompanied Jamunaa to the event.

Yong also said the participants were divided

into various categories based on the continents they were from – Asia, Europe, Africa, America and Australia.

The participants were required to undergo several tests, present performances, take part in question-and-answer sessions and make public speeches.

The international competition was organised by HANBAN, China together with Hunan Satellite TV. It attracted 123 participants from 79 countries.



# 4 MECHATRONIC UNDERGRADUATES OFFERED PLACES IN GERMANY



**F**our out of 16 mechatronic engineering dual-degree programme undergraduates were offered to undergo industrial training in Germany for six months beginning September.

They were 23-year-olds Wan Nurul Farah Liyana Razali, Chew Yen Ying, Mohamad Redzuan Samad and Fathi Zaidan Jamaludin.

They were part of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s first batch pursuing their studies in the German engineering dual-degree programme.

The offers for the overseas stint would provide them the opportunity of doing industrial training and learning more about engineering in Germany.

Wan Nurul Farah Liyana and Yen Ying were placed at Robert Bosch GMBH while Mohamad Redzuan at Watlow GmbH and Fathi Zaidan at Infineon, Regensburg, Bavaria.

According to German Academic and Career Centre (GACC) Director, Brian Trenaman, UMP was the first public university in the country to offer the dual degree programme at the bachelor's level in automotive and mechatronic since 2010.

UMP signed an agreement with Hochschule

Karlsruhe, University of Applied Sciences (HsKA) that paved the way for the programme being conducted in the Gambang campus.

GACC also played a role in assisting undergraduates in getting industrial placements in German companies, be it locally or abroad.

"The undergraduates can benefit from working in Germany, a country known for its high technology. They can learn and gain as much experience and knowledge to fulfil their academic requirements," he said.

Trenaman added that he was proud with the four undergraduates who managed to land industrial placements overseas.

He also said they had received offer letters to undergo the industrial training in Germany while others would be doing their stints in German companies in Malaysia.

Trenaman said, GACC invited HsKA's advisory board president, Professor E. H. Wernwe Vogt to supervise several programmes especially those involving communications and work culture in German companies.

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*The offers for the overseas stint would provide them the opportunity of doing industrial training and learning more about engineering in Germany*

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Wan Nurul Farah Liyanas said, she was now more confident and was also lucky to be picked for the industrial training in Germany, adding it was something she had dreamt about since the first day she stepped into UMP.

Her friend, Fathi Zaidan said, she was so excited after getting offers from three companies –two in Germany and one in the country.

Although she was reluctant to be away from her family, Fathi Zaidan was firm with her decision to choose a company in Germany so she could gain some insight and experience in doing something she had been interested all this while.

# 4 UNDERGRADUATES GARNERED AWARDS IN MACAU



Four Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates created waves at the international level when they won two gold medals, two silver medals and three special awards at the Macau International Innovation and Invention Expo 2013.

It was held at Macau Fishman's Wharf and Exhibition Centre, China on June 30, 2013.

Some 400 entries were submitted and among the countries that took part were Croatia, Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia.

Muhammad Noor Azreen Mohd Khairu from the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) won a gold medal for his project, titled "Recycling of Monoethanolamine (MEA) Wastewater Using Bio Adsorbents Treatment System (From Waste to Wealth)".

The work also won him the Hong Kong Invention Associations' Special Award.

The research was about treating liquid chemical waste, Monoethanolamine (MEA), which was a medium to absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

from raw gas in a gas processing plant.

"The research discovered the best way to treat MEA and to effectively remove carbon dioxide. The natural absorbent agent used is chitosan, rice husk, banana skin and sugar cane pulp," he said.

He hoped that the finding would help solve problems at gas processing plants in related industries.

The research was also supported by Petronas Gas Processing Plant in Kerteh.

Also equally elated about winning a gold medal was Nurul Asyikin Mohd Azam from the Faculty of Science and Industrial Technology (FSTI). She also won a special award from the World Invention Intellectual Property Associations (Macau) with her work, "EBN Pheromone Booster."

Her winning work centred on creating natural aroma to attract swiftlets to fly to nests that had been prepared so as to increase yield of bird nests for commercial purposes.

The silver medallists were Hazim Anas Mohamad from Faculty of Computer System

& Software Engineering (FSKKP) and Mohd Syaifulsyam Abdullah from Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA).

Hazim Anas also received a special award from the Korea Invention Associations for his project titled, "Smart Attendance Management System", a system that would screen students' attendance.

Mohd Syaifulsyam's work was "Mangifera Indica or Odorata Leaves Waste for Low Cost Adsorbent."

The research was about using activated mango leaf absorbent in solving problems relating to treating industrial wastewater that contained heavy metals. It could help reduce costs and preserve environment.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said, he was proud with their achievements and hoped it would help spur other undergraduates to come up with research works that could be benefitted and shared with the public.



*Some 400 entries were submitted and among the countries that took part were Croatia, Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia*





## VICE-CHANCELLOR OPENS GAMES BY MALAYSIAN STUDENTS



By: HARYANI ABDULLAH

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Vice-Chancellor, Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim officially opened the Midwest Games International (MWGi) organised by the Malaysian Embassy in Chicago (EMC) and Western Michigan University (WMU) Malaysian Student Association (MASA) at Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA

on May 24, 2013.

Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir, who was on an official trip to the country, was also appointed as the Chef de Mission (CDM) for WMU contingent for the Games, which was held annually. WMU hosted the event for the third time since it commenced in 1997.

Other previous hosts included Purdue University (2010), University

*The Midwest Games is a sports programme organised to provide support and strengthen ties, and inculcate healthy competition among Malaysian students abroad especially those in the USA,"*

of Wisconsin-Madison (2011) and University of Illinois-Champaign (2012).

There were more than 10 events in the games and among them were bowling, tennis, badminton, netball, football and 'sepak takraw'.

"The Midwest Games is a sports programme organised to provide support and strengthen ties, and inculcate healthy competition

among Malaysian students abroad especially those in the USA," he said in his speech.

He urged all athletes and Malaysian students to do their part in making Malaysia as the main place for experts and talents to part their skills and knowledge.

Dato' Dr. Daing also reminded them to stay focus on their studies without neglecting the soft skill aspects in their pursuit of becoming well-rounded people, academically and socially.

MWGi 2013 director Satveer Thind said the organiser was grateful with the cooperation showed by UMP especially with Dato' Dr. Daing being there. Dato' Dr. Daing is an alumnus of WMU.

Thind added that the Games was not only a sporting event but also aimed at forging closer ties among Malaysian students who studied in other universities and for them to participate in a career programme, held in conjunction of the Games.

UMP also took part in the career programme that included interview sessions for new talents as academic fellows for Malaysians who were pursuing their studies in USA and took the opportunity to meet UMP staff who were studying there.

UMP also held discussions to pave the way for collaborations with San Diego State University (SDSU) and Missouri University of Science and Technology (MUST), and shared their expertise at NAFSA Annual Conference and Expo in St Louis, Missouri.

Also present were Dean of Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering, Professor Dr Jasni Mohamad Zain, Dean of Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering, Associate Professor Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff and Director of International Office, Associate Professor Dr. Ainol Haryati Ibrahim.

# AZWAN

## DID UMP PROUD BY BEING NAMED BH VARSITY ICON



*The win was based on his success in managing Syarikat Azwan Dot Com Enterprise that marketed telecommunication accessory products and IT and printing equipment in UMP as well as in 84 community colleges nationwide*

Azwan Affandi Md. Jahaya, 21, was announced as the Varsity Icon 2012, an event organised by Malay daily Berita Harian together with the Higher Education Ministry at Royale Chulan Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on January 25, 2013.

Azwan Affandi is an undergraduate of the Faculty of Computer Systems and Software Engineering (FSKKP), Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP).

Azwan Affandi won in the individual entrepreneurship category and took home cash of RM2,000 and a trophy. He beat two other hopefuls - Nor Suriani Azhar from Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) and Azizul Ridhuan Wahid from

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in Arau, Perlis.

The win was based on his success in managing Syarikat Azwan Dot Com Enterprise that marketed telecommunication accessory products and IT and printing equipment in UMP as well as in 84 community colleges nationwide.

Also sharing his success was seven others from UMP's In-Smartive Club comprising Nur Rahimah Mohd Sofyan, Nurul Farhana Abu Kasim, Nor Atikah Salleh, Mohamad Saidi Ismail, Nor Zaratunaimah Kolan, Ahmad Arif Fauzi, Mohd Jamil Mohd Jaafar and Haffizothul Ommi Aziz who were members of a group named as the best three in the country for the corporate social responsibility (CSR) project category.





The winner for the category was a team who called themselves 'Students in Free Enterprise' from Universiti Kuala Lumpur's Malaysian Institute of Industrial Technology (SIFE UniKLMicet) while the other team was the Preparatory Programme group from Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN).

According to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd. Yunus who represented the UMP Vice-Chancellor, the university was proud with their achievements and hoped it would motivate others as well.

"UMP undergraduates should continue to build success in the various areas ventured as well as making contribution to the community, be it

locally or abroad," said Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli.

He added that he believed more UMP undergraduates could be declared as icons so other undergraduates could follow.

In-Smartive Club president Mohd Jamil Mohd Jaafar said the In-Smartive team was picked based on the commitment and contribution made in organising and implementing motivational programmes - 'Kilauan Mutiara' and Teach Malaysia Teach (TMT) – held in various schools throughout Pahang.

"Their success for being selected as among the top three teams made them even more determined to continue making contributions to the community and to get involve in volunteer

programmes in the future," he added.

He was delighted with the solid support rendered by the university especially the In-Smartive Club advisor Wan Nazrul Helmy Wan Mohd Zain and Student Representative Council (MPP) President who were also present at the event to celebrate the occasion.

The Varsity Icon Award, which was held for the first time, has 14 individual and group categories and attracted participants from public and private institutes of higher learning that included MARA Professional College, skills institutes, polytechnics and community colleges.

Also present were Higher Education Minister, Dato' Seri Mohamad Khaled Nordin, Berita Harian Group Editor, Datuk Mior Kamarul Shahid, BH Group Deputy Director, Mahfar Ali and BH Education Editor Muhd. Yusof Abu Bakar.



# UMP BEEFS UP ITS ICT SECURITY WITH ISO/IEC 27001

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) was awarded ISO/IEC 27001 for Information Security Management System (ISMS) for the operational and maintenance of its Gambang Data Centre.

The official endorsement is an initiative by UMP through the Information Technology and Communication Centre (PTMK). It streamlines and reinforces ICT security defence especially those relating to Internet usage security and

cyber threats.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the capability to set up a reliable and high-tech information management system was among the significant condition that determined the level of trust among customers and stakeholders towards the university.

"The accreditation is part of the service transformation requirements as proposed by the government in a move to establish excellent, efficient and effective delivery system that will contribute to the government's transformation agenda," he said at a thanks-giving function and presentation of the certificate - MS ISO/IEC 27001:2007 – at Banquet Hall, Chancellery, Gambang campus, on April 22, 2013.

He was very pleased with the recognition





MS ISO 27001 ISMS standard certification within three years after it was introduced in 2010.

However, to date, only 34 public agencies had carried out the ISMS auditing and 16 had received the accreditations.

On efforts taken by UMP, Wan Rosdi said they were happy to see UMP's dedication in getting the certification and did so within a short period of time – four months.

UMP was the third public university to obtain the documentation after Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

Later, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir received the certificate from Management System Certification Department Service Section Head of SIRIM QAS International Sdn. Bhd., Lee Lay Kuan.

Also present were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr Yuserrie Zainuddin and PTMK Director, Associate Professor Dr. Wan Maseri Wan Mohd.



given and hoped the dedication showed by the ISMS/PTMK team would inspire others and for them to emulate the team.

Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU)'s ICT Technical Head Consultant, Wan Rosdi Wan Dollah said, his department had introduced several initiatives to enhance the ICT level of security.

The unit is under the purview of the Prime Minister's Department.

He added that among the initiatives were drafting of the ICT Security Policy, the setting up of a Government Computer Emergency Response Team (GCERT) and implementing the

*The accreditation is part of the service transformation requirements as proposed by the government in a move to establish excellent, efficient and effective delivery system that will contribute to the government's transformation agenda*



# MSA, UMP ORGANISED A RARE EARTH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Rare earth industry setting up operations here in Malaysia will help boost its economy for it will allow the country to be competitive in green technology, globally.

There are risks in all technologies but the most important thing is how the risks are managed and how it will be safe to the environment and contribute productively to the economy.

Based on this viewpoint, the Malaysia Science Academy (MSA) and Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) organised a rare earth international seminar at Astaka Hall, Gambang campus on February 28, 2013.

The theme was 'Safety, Health, Environment, Economy and Technologies' and it was officially opened by MSA Rare Earth Action Committee Chairman, Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Ahmad Zaidee Laidin.

The one-day seminar was aimed at identifying potential impact of technology using rare earth in green-technology industries for the development

and investment in Malaysia.

It was also to identify potential impacts on the safety, health and environment of people living around the area as well as research and innovative measures.

Ir. (Dr.) Ahmad Zaidee Laidin, in his speech, stated that some of the reasons why people in Malaysia protested against the opening of a rare earth processing factory was due to misunderstanding and concerns over chemical leakages that could cause radiation.

As such, it was important that the right and latest information was presented, he added.

"A seminar such as this will help to channel the latest news and gives positive impact. It will also present important elements that will benefit Malaysians," he said.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said, the seminar was a manifestation of the commitment by MSA and UMP in order to

provide accurate information about the material and rare earth industry, its potentials, prospects and impacts to the people.

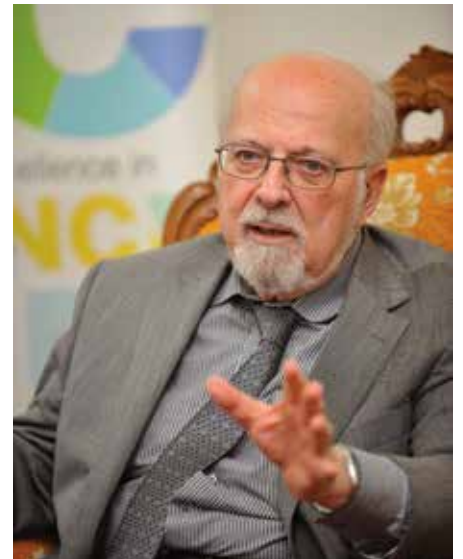
"I believe the seminar will be very useful in providing the understanding and knowledge about the material and the industry itself, especially the kind of economic returns it will give to the people and nation.

"The seminar is the right platform to discuss the various perspectives, views and reasoning on rare earth amongst the intellectuals and impartial adults. It is hoped that it is not troubled by baseless controversies.

"On this, UMP is committed in making the same stand as MSA on promoting a better understanding about industries relating to rare earth materials. This rarely happens among the people in Malaysia especially among the Kuantan residents themselves," he said when addressing some 500 guests who attended the seminar.



*The one-day seminar was aimed at identifying potential impact of technology using rare earth in green-technology industries for the development and investment in Malaysia*



Other prominent and credible local and international scientists who were rare earth experts included Technology Metal Research founder who presented a working paper titled, *'Regional Demands for Rare Earth and Impacts on Malaysian Economy'* and Australia's University of Queensland, Centre of Social Responsibility director Professor Saleem Hassan Ali with his working paper on *'Managing Conflicts in Rare Earth Sector - Relating to the Environment'*.

Other speakers were Malaysia Nuclear

Agency senior research officer Dr. Meor Yusoff Meor Sulaiman with his work on 'Source of Rare Earth Processing by Asian Rare Earth Company' and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Occupational Health and Environment Programme Chief, Associate Professor YM Dr Tengku Mohammad Ariff Raja Hussin with his paper, 'Industrial Activities: Managing Effects and Risks Pertaining to Humans'.

In the afternoon, a forum was held that discussed about 'Rare Earth Industry in Malaysia: Issues Involving Safety, Health, Environment,

Economy and Technology'. There were six panelists - Jack Lifton, Professor Saleem Hassan Ali, UMP Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Dr. Meor Yusoff Meor Sulaiman, Professor Amran Abdul Majid and Associate Professor YM Dr Tengku Mohammad Ariff Raja Hussin.

Also present was UMP Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus.

# FSKKP ORGANISED THIRD ICSECS CONFERENCE 2013

*The theme was  
“Engineering  
Software  
towards  
Sustainable  
Quality  
Systems”  
that focused  
on computer  
system,  
networking  
and software  
engineering*



By: NORANIZA SAMAT

**F**aculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKKP), Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) organised the 3rd International Conference on Software Engineering and Computer Systems (ICSECS - 2013) at Astaka Hall, UMP Gambang campus on August 22, 2013.

The theme was “Engineering Software towards Sustainable Quality Systems” that focused on computer system, networking and software engineering. The conference was officially opened by Deputy Vice- Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dr. Mashitah Mohd Yusoff.

In her speech, she said the development of technology started in the 80s and it had since spurred the growth of computer system, software engineering and information technology.

“In fact, the world now seems to be getting smaller with the emergence of Internet that has facilitated daily activities and works brought about from all kinds of online services offered.

“Research and development activities in these areas should not only focus on the system and technical aspects. There is a need to emphasise on the sustainability aspect as well,” she said.

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

Two speakers presented their working papers in the conference and they were Professor Dr. Jasni Mohamad Zain who spoke on “Sustainable Quality Systems in Organisations” and Professor Dr Michael Wagner who elaborated on a topic titled, “Biometric Person Authentication - Strengthening Our Defences in the Face of a Computer Security Crisis”.

The best three working papers were also announced in the conference.





The winners were ENSEM Université Hassan II Casablanca, Morocco team comprising Ismail Assayad, Abdelouahed Zakari, Mohamed Sadik and Tarik Nahhal with their paper on "Modelling and Analysis of Heterogeneous Architectures and Application to System", Multimedia University team comprising Tee Connie, Micheal Kah Ong Goh and Andrew Beng Jin Teoh with their paper titled, "Subspace Learning On Grassmannian Manifold For Human Gait Analysis" and Universiti Malaysia Pahang team consisting of Mohd Hanis Rani and Professor Dr Abdullah Embong with their paper titled, "Predicting Student Performance in Object Oriented Programming Using Decision Tree: A Case at Kolej Poly-Tech Mara, Kuantan."

As for the best presentation, the winning team was from Universiti Teknologi MARA comprising Zainura Idrus, Siti Z.Z. Abidin, N. Omar and Ajab Akbarally with their paper titled "Modelling Role Behaviour for Managing Users through a

Networked-Collaborative Monopoly Game Abstraction."

Participants of ICSECS 2013 also took the opportunity to visit several places of attraction such as the Sungai Lembing Museum, Turtle Conservation and Information Centre and the popular beach of Teluk Chempedak.





*Most of the participants are entrepreneurs of herbal-based products. As such, it is easier to explain to them about the herbs and the health and medicinal benefits*

## UMP TRAINS ENTREPRENEURS ON HERBAL EXTRACTION AND PROCESSING TECHNIQUES

BY: DR. AHMAD ZIAD SULAIMAN

The Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA), MARA Entrepreneur Development Unit (PUSMA) and Centre of Continuing Education & Professional Development (CENFED) recently worked together to organise a workshop aimed at enhancing knowledge of its participants on local herbal extraction and processing techniques.

Nineteen participants from Pahang took part in the workshop which was held for three days

beginning June 10, 2013. All of them were fully sponsored by MARA.

The workshop was supervised by FKKSA senior lecturer Dr. Ahmad Ziad Sulaiman and assisted by Vocational Training Assistant Officers, Zainal Gimam and Zulhabri Khadisah.

According to Dr. Ziad, the training would help the participants understand the right techniques to extract herbs of high commercial value.

"Most of the participants are entrepreneurs of herbal-based products. As such, it is easier to explain to them about the herbs and the health

and medicinal benefits," he said.

He also said the participants were given the opportunity to conduct practical training at the laboratory where they carried out extraction process of two types of herbs - 'Haubatus Sauda' and 'Tongkat Ali'.

He added that from the process conducted, the participants were exposed to an application called High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), a tool that analysed the level of purity of the extraction.

He said most of the participants were satisfied with the programme and hoped that UMP would further help entrepreneurs in the herbal industry especially from Pahang to gain more knowledge in the extraction technology.

"They also wished that they could have access to the expertise available among UMP lecturers," he added.



# UMP, UOS ORGANISED A SYMPOSIUM ON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT



By: AZIMAN ABDULLAH

**F**orty participants from Korea and Malaysia took part in an international symposium - 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop Korea-Malaysia Symposium on Watershed Management for Sustainable Earth – that discussed about related technology in watershed management.

The event, held at University of Seoul (UoS) on June 28, 2013, involved discussions by experts from both countries.

Prior to this, two symposiums had been organised in Kuala Lumpur. These symposiums were results of collaborations formed between UoS and Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP). They were organised by Centre of Research and Earth Resources Management (CERRM).

The participants comprised academicians, researchers and representatives from the private and public sectors. Among those present were National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM) Director General Ir Haji Ahmad Jamalluddin and NAHRIM's River Division Director, Dr. Nasehir Khan.

The presenters included dean of College of Urban Sciences from University of Seoul, Professor Choi Geun Hee and Director of Research and Development Centre, Core Technologies for Water Treatment, Professor Kim Hyunook.



Also present was Eco-Smart Waterworks System Director, Professor Noh Soo-Hong.

During the symposium, the Malaysian delegates visited a river conservation project carried out at the Cheonggye-cheon River.

According to CERRM Director, Dr Wan Mohd Faizal Wan Ishak, the programme was one of the efforts resulting from collaborations forged between UMP and UoS.

The collaborations would also see more programmes involving transfers of technology and knowledge to be carried out.

Some lecturers would continue their studies in doctoral degree programmes in Korea and sponsored by the Education Ministry while three UMP graduates would pursue their masters' degrees with scholarships by the Korean Government.

*The participants comprised academicians, researchers and representatives from the private and public sectors.*



# 'JOM MASUK U' ZONE 7 ATTRACTED SOME 40,000 VISITORS



Some 40,000 people comprising students, teachers, parents and residents thronged the Sultan Ahmad Shah International Convention Center (SASICC) in Kuantan for two days on March 16 and 17, 2013 to get the latest information on accreditations, financial aids and entries into institutes of higher learning (IPTS), polytechnics and community colleges.

It was held in conjunction with the Higher Education Ministry's 'Jom Masuk U' Zone 7 Carnival 2013 (Let's Enter U Carnival 2013).

Among the interesting features in the carnival were exhibitions of '1Dream2U', quizzes, online application and a one-day seminar on learning opportunities in public and private institutes of higher learning.

There were 150 booths set up that showcased information on education-related agencies and

IPTS, and were opened from 9am until 5pm.

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said, this year's event involved 11 zones with fixed locations spread out nationwide and Pahang was selected to host the event, again.

He added that UMP was the secretariat together with the ministries of Higher Education and Education.

He also said, UMP would be offering two new programmes for the new intake of 2013/2014 – a bachelor's degree (with honours) in Engineering Technology (Pharmaceutical) under Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Natural Resource. It is a partnership programme with Tallaght Technology Institute, Republic of Ireland.

"Another programme is the bachelor's degree (with honours) in Engineering Technology





programme that would meet the country's need – a dual degree programme of bachelor's degree in business engineering, a result of collaboration with Reutlingen University in Germany.

It will be offered next year.

Dato' Dr. Daing also expressed his sense of pride on the rate of marketability of last year's graduates that saw 79% of them gained employment six months upon graduation.

Profesor Dato' Dr. Rujhan Mustafa said, the ministry had discussed with the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) on a suggestion to create a graduate detection system which would be able to detect the type of work and salary drawn by them.

"In fact, the ministry has set a target of

75% graduates getting jobs six months after graduation," he added.

One of the visitors at the carnival, 17-year-old Nur Ameera Muslim of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Indera Mahkota in Kuantan said the event provided accurate information and this had facilitated them in selecting suitable programmes to continue their studies.

Aslah Mohd Shaini, 18, from Pekan, agreed that holding such a carnival was not only good for visitors to get knowledge but also they could take part in various activities organised and win prizes and souvenir.

*Among the interesting features in the carnival were exhibitions of '1Dream2U', quizzes, online application and a one-day seminar on learning opportunities in public and private institutes of higher learning.*



(Infrastructure Management) offered under Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources and it is a partnership programme with University of Southern Queensland, Australia," he told a press conference that was also attended by Higher Education Department Director General, Professor Dato' Dr. Rujhan Mustafa.

Other guests included Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Polytechnic Studies Department Director General, Major (H) Haji Md. Nor Yusof and UMP Registrar, Haji Mustafa Ibrahim.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said, there were 32 programmes to be offered by UMP for undergraduates comprising 27 at the bachelor's degree level and five at the diploma level.

He added that UMP would soon offer the latest



# HUMANITARIAN MISSION 'WE LOVE WE CARE' IMPLEMENTED 13 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR STUDENTS IN CAMBODIA

*Among the activities carried out were building and completing a male hostel, dining hall, lavatories, ablution area and laying of tiles at the hostel and mosque*



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) carried out 13 development projects that provided essential needs at Madrasah Al Nikmah Al Islamiah in Kampung Baik An Long in Cham, Cambodia. It was conducted under the university's humanitarian "We Love We Care" mission held over four days beginning August 20, 2013.

Among the activities carried out were building and completing a male hostel, dining hall, lavatories, ablution area and laying of tiles at the hostel and mosque.

The programme was organised by the Alumni and Student Affairs Department (SAFFAD) and UMP alumni with 40 people taking part comprising undergraduates and alumni as well as 176 of the madrasah's students and village residents.

They helped in paving the road and painting the mosque, school and hostel.

According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, the facilities built would help with their studies, adding, the people could also benefit from the various amenities provided.

"The mosque, too, had been upgraded," he said.

Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir added that the current basic amenities were far better than the previous condition, something he had seen for himself in his first visit two months earlier.

"The visit was to determine the kind of needs the village residents and students required before the development project could be carried out," he said.

"It is interesting to note that the project allows sponsors to make the necessary contributions to the village. The students here are a bit behind in their education. They are unable to enjoy mainstream education due to poverty.

"As such, developing basic amenities for them is a priority to ensure that the children here can study in a far better environment.

"In fact, some of them have the potentials and can become educated persons. They can be





teachers, engineers or doctors and help change their lifestyles. They can serve at their own village too," said Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir who was accompanied by his wife Datin Fazia Ali.

He also said UMP was now in the midst of setting up a fund which was collections from of public donations so a hostel for the female students and teachers' quarters could be built.

Cambodian Government Mufti Haji Kamarudin Yusof said the government had never prevented any effort to develop the Muslim community in the country and welcomed contributions from those outside of the country especially in providing facilities for the children's education living in remote areas.

He also said the nation's history saw the calamity experienced during the Cambodian Communist Party ruling under Pol Pot, which was from 1975 until 1979, that had greatly impacted the Muslims.

"Teachers, scholars and academicians were killed. Pol Pot had also, brutally sanctioned an ethnic cleansing and wanted the Khmer people to live in Cambodia. Now the country is peaceful again and development has started, just like other countries," he said.

As for resident Abdullah Aiyob, 42, that part of

the country's history resulted in Muslims lagging and lacking but it was not an excuse for them not to continue to strive and build schools so that the children would be able to get better education.

Abdullah, who took in UMP civil engineering students Mohd Nor Faiz Mohd Hatta and Mohd Ilyas Yusof during the programme, added that most families here were involved in agriculture activities such as farming, rearing of livestock and fishing.

They were unable to provide formal education to their children as the costs were rather high, about 300 USD a year.

As for Junaidi Zakaria who was an alumnus, he said his participation in the humanitarian mission together with other alumni had made them see for themselves the hardship the students had to endure in getting education.

He added that it was a humbling experience when seeing their strong determination to change the future of the families.

UMP undergraduate Mohd Naquiddin Harun said the experience of living with the families would be a memorable one as they had to make up their own communication means because the families could neither speak Malay or English.

He added that undergraduates took the



opportunity to learn about Malay Champa cultures and customs which were not that much different from the practices of Malays in Malaysia.

The programme was also made even more cheerful with the celebration of Hari Raya held at the closing ceremony of the programme.

Also present were Cambodia Government Mufti, Haji Kamarudin Yusof, Kampung Cham Regional Governor Haji Sabri Kasim, Stunrong Grand Imam Haji Tahir Harun and Mufti Advisor, Haji Razali Mohd Jamil.

UMP delegation also gave away food, clothes, praying mats, school items and 180 Al-Quran copies, donated by UMP and members of the public to the madrasah and village.

Other activities conducted were English classes and gotong-royong with the village residents in building the facilities and preparing for the Hari Raya celebration.

The programme was supported by Perodua, UMP Women Association (Matahari), Centre of Continuing Education & Professional Development (CENFED), Puchong Bikers Club and UMP Registrar Office.

# UMP UNDERGRADUATES MASTERED THE SANAD AL-QURAN

*The programme enlightens the participants on the history of Islam, teaches them the right way of reciting the Al-Quran and the correct way to pronounce the characters, ways that have been practiced since the days of Rasulullah SAW until today.*



**N**ine Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates who took Sanad al-Quran degree programme in Cairo, Egypt did well when they managed to complete the course with reputable masyaikh from the Middle East.

The programme was organised by Centre of Islamic and Human Development (PIMPIN) and IQBA Training and Consultancy.

PIMPIN Director, Associate Professor Dr. Hasan Ahmad said, the programme was aimed at obtaining the degree from respectable and worthy scholars.

"For two weeks, they focused on the recital and tajwid classes in Darrasah, Cairo.

"The programme enlightens the participants on the history of Islam, teaches them the right

way of reciting the Al-Quran and the correct way to pronounce the characters, ways that have been practiced since the days of Rasulullah SAW until today," he said in a ceremony to mark the undergraduates' completion of the course at UMP Banquet Hall in Gambang campus on May 17, 2013.

He added that it was not easy for them to earn the scroll because they must be tested on their recital skills and ability in mastering the makhraj.

They must master at least 50% of the knowledge in tajwid and must not make any mistakes in the recital, said Professor Dr Hasan.

"In Cairo, the Al-Quran recital sessions were conducted by Syeikh Asyraf Hamid Hasanain Al Azhari Al Misri and Syeikh Abdul Aziz Al Baidhowi Al Bajuri Al Azhari Al Indonisi while the tajwid classes were supervised by Al Fadhil Ustaz Hakim





Azizan.

"The programme will be continued this year with another 30 undergraduates who are keen to explore more about Al-Quran," he said.

He also said, PIMPIN planned to invite the scholars in Egypt to implement the programme in UMP so more undergraduates would have the same opportunity.

Also present at the ceremony was UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim who presented the scrolls.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said he was proud with their achievements for they managed to master the skills in a short period of time and hoped the programme would help acculturate Al-Quran reading.





*The competition is open to all final-year undergraduates of institutes of higher learning in the country. It aims at promoting the culture of innovation among undergraduates*



## FKP UNDERGRADUATES WON THIRD PLACE IN A NATIONAL-LEVEL DESIGN AND INNOVATION COMPETITION

By: ISMAIL KHAIRUDDIN

Two undergraduates from the Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering (FKP), Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) won third place in a national-level design and innovation competition held at Continental Hotel in Penang on July 4, 2013.

They were Azuan Ismail and Mohd Azri Abdul. They took home RM1,000 in cash.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar presented prizes to the winners. Also present was Agilent Technology Deputy President, Shidah Ahmad.

In his speech, Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid said he was proud to see the involvement of private sector in searching new talents in the country for it brought about opportunities for undergraduates to show their skills in designing new technology.

"This, in turn, would benefit the country in the long run," he added.

Azuan and Mohd Azri, who were final-year undergraduates pursuing their degrees in mechatronics engineering, submitted their entries titled, 'Railroad Inspector for Railroad Department in Malaysia'.

Supervisor and faculty lecturer, Wan Hasbullah Mohd Isa said, the project was about using wave reflection concept and that the idea was mooted by the undergraduates themselves.

"The technology can detect cracks on railroad. The application can help

assist Keretapi Tanah Melayu (KTM) to improve its railroads.

"The competition is open to all final-year undergraduates of institutes of higher learning in the country. It aims at promoting the culture of innovation among undergraduates," he added.

He also said, the competition would enhance the participants' engineering knowledge and skill and increase cooperation between universities and industries.

Among the industries involved in the competition were Agilent Technology, Altera Corporation, Intel Corporation, Mathworks, National Instruments and Silterra Malaysia.





# FKP TO ASSIST CLUSTER SCHOOL TO COMPETE AT AN F1 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS



By: ZURYATY ZOL

**S**ekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Sultanah Hajjah Kalsom is a cluster school for Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering (FKP) to enter F1 Competition in Schools Technology Challenge World Final 2013 to be held in November in Texas, US.

It is held in conjunction with the Formula One Grand Prix 2013 organised by F1 in Schools, UK, beginning November 10-15 this year.

The Formula One (F1) SPEXLIT was the F1 in Schools competition eastern zone champion and the team went to win second place at the national level held late last year. These commendable feats made them eligible to compete at the international level.

According to SMK Sultanah Hajjah Kalsom teacher, Hasfasuriazal Hasman, the team also won five awards – best design, best exhibition display, best project presentation, best portfolio and best

development.

"With the students' commitment and assistance provided by UMP, the team won the best engineered car during the national level of F1 in Schools Technology Challenge held in Penang," Hasfasuriazal said when met during a tour of FKP in UMP Pekan recently.

Among the students who took part in the programme were Emir Adam Zaidi, Mohd Amirullah Raml and Nor Afifah Izyan Izuddin Chong.

Hasfasuriazal hoped that the sharing of UMP lecturers' expertise would help the school team to continue to bring home more wins and good name for the school as well as Pahang

The school also expressed their gratitude to the cooperation and expertise contributed by the lecturers and researchers throughout the competition.

FKP's Lecturer, Dr. Ahmad RazlanYusoff also contributed the success to the diligence showed by the students and teacher who came to UMP for

*With the students' commitment and assistance provided by UMP, the team won the best engineered car during the national level of F1 in Schools Technology Challenge held in Penang," Hasfasuriazal said when met during a tour of FKP in UMP Pekan recently*

discussions and consultations on the technology to be applied when preparing for the F1 prototype model.

Others who contribute to the project included the faculty's lecturers Ahmad Rosli Abdul Manaf, Mohd Zairulnizam Mohd Zawawi, Vocational Training Officer, Aidil Shafiza Safiee and Assistant Officers, Shahandzir Baharom, Suhaimi Puteh and Yahaya Saleh.

# ARTIFICIAL REEF TO HELP PRESERVE MARINE LIFE ECO- SYSTEM



*The programme began with loading off and embedding of the first artificial reef at the Tioman Island Marine Park on March 9, 2013 with the next 12 units fixed on April 18, 2013*

By: GAN LEONG MING

**T**ioman Island is known as one of the world's 10 most beautiful islands and has a diversity of marine life including colourful reef. The island is an attraction, drawing local and foreign tourists who want to bask in the natural wonders it offers.

However, rapid tourism development, global warming and other environment issues had caused some of the marine life to gradually diminish. Its seabed is seeing lesser and lesser aqua life while the reefs are dying.

In a move to help preserve and enrich the marine life, Artificial Reef Project (ARP) crew from

the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering led by Professor Dato' Dr. Haji Rosli Abu Bakar designed artificial reefs made from concrete and steel.

The artificial reefs are made based on the design-and-build concept.

Professor Dato' Dr. Haji Rosli said to date, UMP researchers had designed and fabricated 15 units of the artificial reefs that would serve as wave breakers and in the process, help to protect the marine life in Tioman Island.

"Each unit is formed from three pieces of concrete-steel plates and weighs about 200 kg. It has a unique design – the shape of a solid triangle. The design-and-build concept also reduces manufacturing and transportation costs.





“The programme began with loading off and embedding of the first artificial reef at the Tioman Island Marine Park on March 9, 2013 with the next 12 units fixed on April 18, 2013,” he said.

He hoped to get more grants so the research project could be continued as artificial reefs could help promote growth of marine life in the area.

The last two units were lowered at the marine park on May 11, 2013, in conjunction with the Sultan Ahmad Shah (SAS) International Eco-Challenge.

The programme was officially launched by Lt .Col. Tengku Dato’ Seri Kamarulzaman Al Haj Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Sir Abu Bakar, who is the Commanding Officer of Territorial Army’s First Battalion of 505 Regiment. He represented His Highness the Sultan of Pahang.

Also present was UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim.

Lt. Col. Tengku Dato’ Seri Kamarulzaman also listened to a briefing about the project, its development and how the artificial reefs were installed. He also signed a plaque that marked the launching of the programme.

He said he was proud with the works of UMP researchers in applying their findings into something that would benefit the country’s eco-system

Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir said, the programme



was part of UMP’s social responsibility efforts and giving back what that had been taken from the sea to the sea.

He hoped UMP researchers would continue to produce works that would impact and benefit the people.

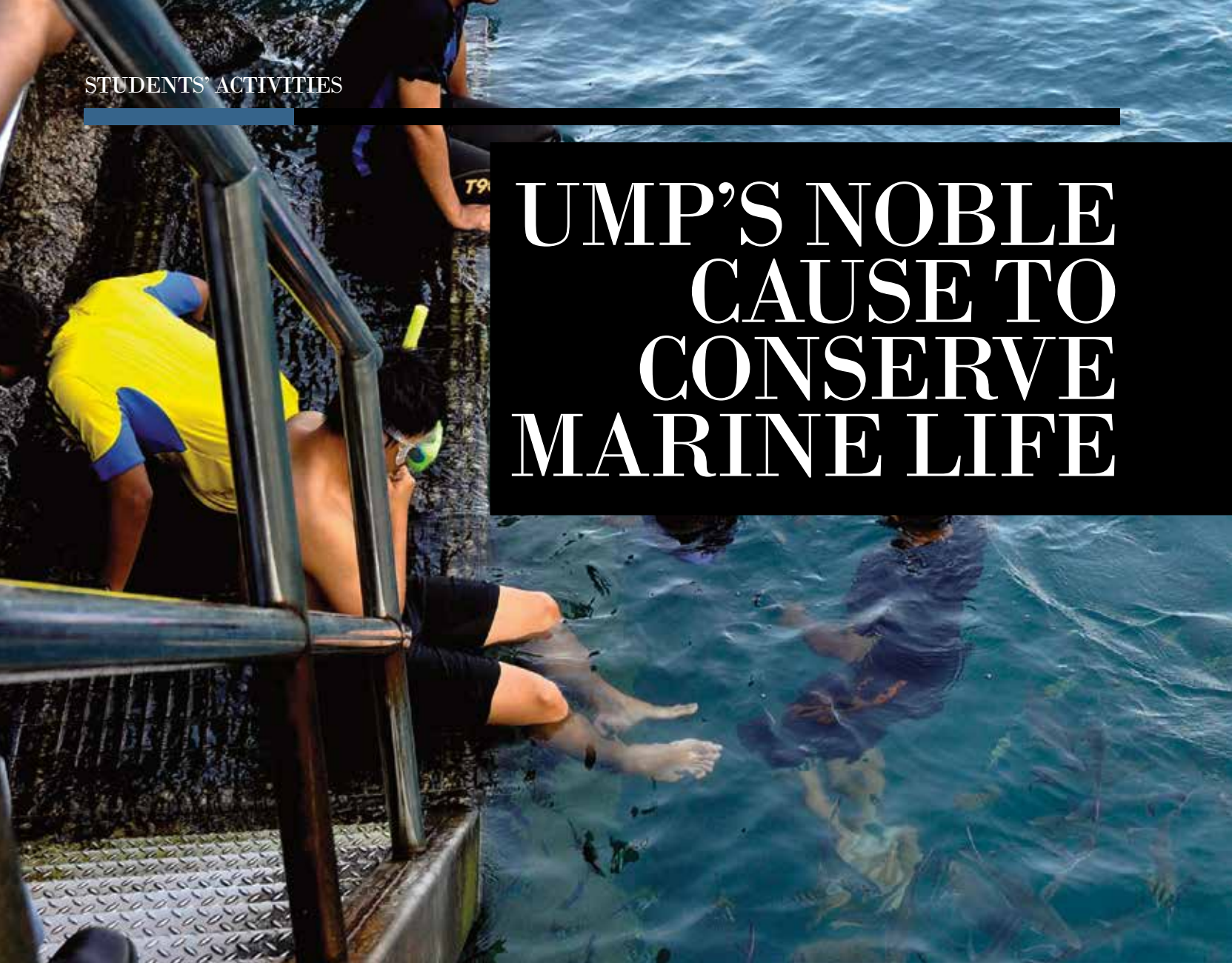
UMP undergraduate Mohamad Taufiq Mohamad Tajudin, 21, said he was proud to be given the chance to take part in the programme and contribute to one of the activities to preserve the marine life and reefs.

Mohamad Taufiq added that through the programme, he realised that engineering was not merely about solving problems in the industry but also that of environment and how to protectit.





# UMP'S NOBLE CAUSE TO CONSERVE MARINE LIFE



*The location was the marine park in Kampung Tekek. The artificial reefs were made of concrete and steel and placed on the seabed. The area would soon turn into a breeding ground for the marine life and coral*





Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s charitable cause does not only involve helping those in need but also protecting the environment including the marine life.

The university joined forces with International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and Malaysia's Marine Park Department in a social responsibility programme that aimed at inculcating care for nature especially marine life.

The programme, 'Winning Hearts and Minds: Journey to Tioman' was organised on March 7-10, 2013, and was held in conjunction with UMP's Volunteerism Year.

A total of 17 undergraduates from Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FKM)'s MECHAPRO Club took part and they were led by lecturer Dr. Gan Leong Ming. Together with staff of UMP, they loaded off 15 artificial reefs.

The location was the marine park in Kampung Tekek. The artificial reefs were made of concrete and steel and placed on the seabed. The area would soon turn into a breeding ground for the marine life and corals.

It also served as wave breaker for the island, named as one of the best 10 islands in the world.

The event was witnessed by Tioman

assemblyman, Capt (R) Dato' Haji Mohd Johari Haji Hussin who said the efforts taken were the first conducted by institutes of higher learning on the island.

The efforts taken were specifically meant to protect and conserve marine life especially the corals which were popular among the tourists, he added.

"The programme is good for the nature and people and normally, it is done by non-governmental organisations involve in environmental protection and conservation," he said at the function.

The group also conducted health checks for the people and 10 undergraduates from IIUM's Medical Faculty recorded blood pressure status, blood types, weight and gave advice on the need for a balanced diet.

The multi-prong programme was seen as helpful and practical with more similar activities expected to be carried out in the future.

Programme director Teo Sir Hiang, 23, said the project was a social responsibility and that it gave early exposure to those involved on the aspects of health and accountability to the environment.

"Response from the people and cooperation

rendered by the non-governmental organisation is deeply appreciated in making the programme a success. It also helps to inculcate love for the nature among the undergraduates," he added.

One of the villagers who took part in the programme, Sipati Mohd Jamil, 54, said the work done did not only beautify the marine life but would also attract more tourists to the area.

"Other than the environment-related programme, they also had a health programme which was hardly organised on the island. With a health programme such as this, it helped the people to obtain some general health information," said Sipati.

Various activities were carried out during the three-day programme in the village and among them were a football match between the undergraduates and youths in the village, religious event at Sekolah Menengah Tekek and beach cleaning – 'gotong-royong' style - on the last day.

Also present were UMP Holdings Sdn. Bhd. Managing Director, Professor Ir. Dr. Yusoff Ali and Student Affairs & Alumni Department (SAFFAD) Assistant Registrar, Abd Rahman Ahmad, who represented the UMP delegation.







## 40 UNDERGRADUATES COMPLETED 'KADAR' COURSE

A total of 40 Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates who were voluntary members of the 505 First Regiment Battalion Reserve Force based in Taman Gelora here completed their basic land training for non-commissioned junior officers (Kursus Asas Darat Pegawai Tak Tauliah Rendah or KADAR Siri 1/2013).

It was a career course to become Section Head Assistant that involved a well-planned combat platoon organisation.

The ceremony was officially closed by the Regiment's Commander, YM Lt Colonel Tengku Dato' Sri Kamarulzaman Al-Haj Ibni Sultan Sir Abu Bakar at the UMP Chancellery Square in Gambang on Februari 15, 2013.

According to Lt Colonel Tengku Dato' Sri Kamarulzaman, the course commenced on January 19 until February 17 with participants given training in leadership.

It was also the first time that the course was conducted by the battalion for normally, it would be carried out by the regiment's headquarters, he added.

"The participants are taught about marching skills, weapons and batons, handling of arms, tactics and provided with battlefield knowledge. The 'KADAR' course is in line with the Higher Education Ministry's aspiration to instill soft skills



*It was a career course to become Section Head Assistant that involved a well-planned combat platoon organisation*





and leadership qualities among undergraduates," he said.

He hoped all the participants understood the values and would practice them, and eventually, they would become a team that was a role model to other institutes of higher learning that had yet to form Reserve Officers Training Unit (ROTU).

The ceremony also witnessed the re-commissioning of UMP staff, LTM Mazlan Mohamad, who was attached with the Property Development and Management Department (JPPH) and presented awards to outstanding participants.

The best marching award went to Mohd Taufiq Mohd Tajuddin while the best academic award was won by Siti Fatimah Tooeman from the Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (FKEE). The overall best student was Mohd Hibatul Hakimi Mohd Daud, an undergraduate of Faculty of Technology (FT).

Mohd Hibatul Hakimi, 22, said he was thankful with the award given and that he did not expect to be picked for his colleagues were also good.

He added that the activities undertaken could be applied in his daily life in campus especially in instilling patriotism, friendship and teamwork.

As for Siti Fatimah, 23, her deep interest in uniform bodies stemmed from school days and that being a woman was not an obstacle to venture in an area that was monopolised by men.

Also present were UMP Vice-Chancellor, Captain Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, The Regiment's Deputy Commander, Lt Colonel Haji Ahmad Bakri A. Majid, Pahang Reserve Forces Supporting Group Committee Member, Major Professor Dato' Dr. Mortaza Mohamed, Major Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Abu Bakar and UMP senior management.





# 30 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS EXPERIENCED A NEW KIND OF AIDILFITRI CELEBRATION IN MALAYSIA



*Activities such as this can help them feel less homesick of their families and friends back home*







It was clearly a new experience for 30 international students of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) when celebrating the Hari Raya Aidilfitri here in Malaysia.

They had the opportunity of visiting the home of Wan Mohd Zain Wan Mohd, who lived in Kampung Ketapang Tengah, Pekan in Pahang. Wan Mohd Zain's son, Wan Nazrul Helmy was also present to welcome the guests.

According to UMP International Office Director, Associate Professor Dr. Ainol Haryati Ibrahim, the students were from Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Sudan, China, Nigeria, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

"Activities such as this can help them feel less homesick of their families and friends back home," she said.

One of them was Nigerian Geoffery Ogadimma Asiegbu, 44, who said that although he was sad being away from his families, the visit made him happy as he was able to celebrate the special day with other friends.

Geoffery is pursuing his master's degree in electrical engineering for the past two years.

His friend, Mazza Seddiq Adam Abbakar, 31, from Sudan, described the experience as a pleasant one because of the open house culture practised by the Malaysians.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin also joined them in celebrating the Hari Raya Aidilfitri.





# UMP IN-SMARTIVE CLUB MEMBERS' MEANINGFUL TRIP AT UTY

By: WAN NAZRUL HELMY WAN MOHD ZAIN

A total of 23 Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates took time off to experience the way of life of peasants away in a village in Indonesia while their friends returned to their homes and families during the final semester break.

The group, who were members of the In-Smartive Club, went to Dusun Ngepring, Purwobinangun, a rural area of Istimewa District in Yogyakarta on June 30, 2013. They stayed with their foster parents there.

They were involved in a community project called, '*Projek Titik Sentuhan @Yogyakarta*', an

international mobility reach out initiative that was supported by the Pahang Menteri Besar Office, Pahang Federal Development Office, Student Affairs & Alumni Department (SAFFAD) and Universitas Teknologi Yogyakarta (UTY).

Fifteen undergraduates from UTY were also involved in the project.

Project Manager, Brahma Wirapati Rossi, 20, said the objective of the project was to put together the best benchmark practise for community programme by institutes of higher learning in Indonesia.

Brahma is Faculty of Technology second-year undergraduate pursuing a degree in Industrial Technology Management.

Brahma added that it was different as compared to Malaysia as community programmes by universities in Indonesia was systematically structured in the '*Kuliah Kerja Nyata (KKN)*' or the Community Service Education and Rural Development classes which required total participation from undergraduates.

"In the '*Projek Titik Sentuhan*', undergraduates from both universities work together to help sustainably transform Dusun Ngepring as UMP-UTY's own Rural Development entity," said Brahma who hailed from Jakarta.

Dusun Ngepring is located in Kabupaten Sleman, one of the Kabupatens in Istimewa District in Yogyakarta. There are some 200 families living in the village and rearing high quality livestock is their main economy activity.

The daily routines included milking, cleaning the sheds, selling the milk at local cooperatives, looking for grass and feeding the livestock and those were the chores the participants did in the project.

The village people were also introduced to the local, unique Malaysian dishes and the participants demonstrated their cooking skills by



*They were involved in a community project called, 'Projek Titik Sentuhan @Yogyakarta', an international mobility reach out initiative that was supported by the Pahang Menteri Besar Office, Pahang Federal Development Office, Student Affairs and Alumni Department and Universitas Teknologi Yogyakarta (UTY)*



dishing out nasi lemak. The session was attended by the women folk.

Other than that, they played volleyball, did some handicraft works and held a dialogue session as part of the efforts to have more interactions with the locals.

The village's Baiturrahman Mosque was under renovation in view of the Ramadan month at the time and the participants took the opportunity to help with some of the works and painted the building.

The last programme held during the stay was a group discussion with the topic on, '*Pariwisata Sebagai Penggerak Ekonomi Lokal*' or Tourism as the Catalyst to Boost Local Economy. It was chaired by UTY Environmental Development programme lecturer, EndahTisnawati.

Also present were UTY Vice-Rector (Academic), Dr Tri Gunarsih, UMP Vice-Chancellor Research Chief and In-Smartive Club Advisor, Wan Nazrul Helmy Wan Mohd Zain and residents of Dusun Ngepring.

In-Smartive Club President, Mohd Jamil Mohd

Ja'afar, 23, said they were excited to carry out the Rural Development initiative by UTY for it could be applied in the club's own community activities.

"The effort to help transform Dusun Ngepring as a UMP-UTY Rural Development entity is a manifestation of the universities' commitment and we will continue to do so," said the fourth-year Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering undergraduate.

UTY architectural undergraduate Helmi Fuad Nur, 20, said the opportunity to interact with UMP undergraduates from Malaysia had been constructive, adding, he had been selected to participate in an exchange programme between UTY-UMP in September.

UTY's Business and Information Technology Faculty undergraduate Dessy Wulandari, 20, also agreed with Helmi, saying the experience gained from staying together with new friends from UMP for six days had been very meaningful.

"We are confined by the geographical and political borders but the truth is, people of Indonesia and Malaysia remained connected. It is

further strengthened during the six-day stay of the project," said Dessy.

Back in Yogyakarta, the group visited Putri 'Aisyiyah Orphanage and donated 100 kilogramme of rice and cash.

A pre-collaboration discussion was also held between In-Smartive Club and Sekolah Menengah Atas (SMA) Muhammadiyah 1, one of the 10 best and modern secondary schools in Indonesia. The school was represented by Vice-Principal, Sarno R Sudibyo.

The UMP delegation also met UTY Rector, Drs. Bambang Hartadi at his office in UTY 1 Campus in Jombor.

They talked about future collaborations between UMP and UTY involving community projects in Malaysia and Indonesia and other similar Rural Development programmes in Indonesia as well the social restructuring mechanism carried out by Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) in Malaysia.

Also present were Vice-Rector (Academic), Dr. Tri Gunarsih and other senior officials.



## 53 UNDERGRADUATES IMPROVE THEIR ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

By: FATIN

A total of 53 undergraduates Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) spent their semester break by taking part in the Wonderful World of English Camp as part of their efforts to build up self-confidence so they could communicate better in the language.

The camp was organised by the Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (CMLHS) and held at Riverside Janda Baik, Bentong on January 21, 2013.

Held for the fifth time, the camp was aimed at getting participants to get interested in English and to use the language to improve their verbal skills.

According to CMLHS language teacher, Nor Suhardiliana Sahar, the Intelligent Club was active in conducting

other programmes as well such as the 'Spell It Right, UMP', 'So You Think You Can Speak', 'Oh! My English' and quizzes.

"The camp was held for three days and the participants were required to speak in English during the whole duration and marks would be deducted if they failed to abide by the regulation," she said.

She added that the activities were carried out in very creative ways that challenged the participants by emphasising on the non-verbal and verbal aspects.

Programme Director, Nor Fadhillah Mohd Mazalan said the objective set was met as the participants felt motivated and confident enough to speak the language.

They also gained a lot of knowledge learnt through the exciting means in the camp, she added.

Second-year chemical engineering undergraduate Siti Hajar Abdul Hamid, who was one of the facilitators, said the camp highlighted a more effective learning technique so participants could practice the language outside of their classrooms.

Another facilitator and third-year mechanical engineering undergraduate Nur Naqiaie Yuddin Nor Adzhar said it was the first time she was involved in the camp and the activities held were very resourceful.

In fact, being a facilitator did not mean that she was only involved in making sure that the programme run smoothly but also it was an opportunity for her to brush up her English and be more confident.

*The camp was held for three days and the participants were required to speak in English during the whole duration and marks would be deducted if they failed to abide by the regulation*



# GETTING CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH INMATES OF RSK BEDONG AND STUDENTS OF SEMUJI IN A COMMUNITY PROJECT 'SEMAIAN BUDI'

By: WAN NAZRUL HELMY WAN MOHD ZAIN

Thirty five Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates had a meaningful semester holiday by taking some time off to be with inmates of Rumah Seri Kenangan (RSK) Bedong and students of Sekolah Menengah Sains Sultan Mohamad Jiwa (SEMUJI) in Sungai Petani, Kedah.

It was a community project, 'Semaian Budi', organised by In-Smartive Club and held on January 23, 2013.

The theme was 'From Campus to the Grass Root' and the project was supported by UMP's Student Affairs and Alumni Department (SAFFAD) and Kedah's Social Welfare Department.

The programme involved 250 senior citizens of RSK Bedong and 150 SEMUJI students who would be sitting for their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) this year.

Project's Director, Muhammad Amin Mohd Faudzi, 21, said it was a two-pronged project, one to help bring joy and comfort to the senior citizens and the other was to assist the students in charting the right course for them after completing SPM.

"In the day, the volunteers of In-Smartive carried out their community service works in RSK Bedong according to the routines set by the department and this went on until 5pm while in the evening, they spent time with the students," said the third-year undergraduate of

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering.

Muhammad Amin added that managing the bed-ridden senior citizens was based on the department's Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) and it was a new experience for the volunteers.

"The undergraduates were able to experience for themselves how to care and clean the people such as trimming their nails, cutting the hair, feeding and bathing them," he added.

As for Haffizothul Ommi Aziz, 22, an undergraduate with Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering and In-Smartive Deputy President, said it was awkward, initially.

However, she realised that the inmates needed special attention just as how her own parents would want and this gave her strength to complete the tasks given.

RSK Bedong Supervisor, Shahrin Nizar Azudin was full of praise for the volunteers and initiative taken and described it as unique for prior to this, it had not been done by any institutes of higher learning.

He added that the programme was a bold step for the undergraduates who chose to be with the senior citizens who had been abandoned and that the project should be organised again in the future.

The project ended with souvenir presentation by Vice-Chancellor Research Head and In-Smartive Advisor, Wan Nazrul Helmy Wan Mohd Zain to SEMUJI Principal Pesol Md Saad and RSK Bedong supervisor.



*The programme involved 250 senior citizens of RSK Bedong and 150 SEMUJI students who would be sitting for their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) this year*

# CLOSER TIES FORGED BETWEEN UMP-UMRAH



*The event is a continuation to the Casual Cultural Night 1 held last year, one held together with Dhaka Cultural Centre, Bangladesh and Universitas Sumatera. It involved 40 people and response was really encouraging.*

By: MOHD. ZAKI AHMAD

Some 500 people attended the Casual Cultural Night 2 that saw performances staged by undergraduates from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji (UMRAH) from Riau, Indonesia.

The event was held at Astaka Hall, Gambang campus on May 30, 2013.

According to Student Affairs and Alumni Department (Saffad)'s cultural, arts and creative arts unit officer Mohd Zaki Ahmad, the programme was a platform for undergraduates from both universities to know more about arts and culture of people in the region.

"The event is a continuation to the Casual Cultural Night 1 held last year, one held together with Dhaka Cultural Centre, Bangladesh and Universitas Sumatera. It involved 40 people and response was really encouraging.

"The Casual Cultural Night 2 involved a bigger number of people – 89, and they were from UMP and UMRAH.

"They were 34 from UMRAH consisting of dancers, musicians and 'silat' participants who showcased their performances followed by 55 from UMP who displayed their talents in the two-hour show," said Mohd Zaki.

He added that he was satisfied with the

commitment showed by the participants.

He also said, the UMRAH group performed traditional Malay dances such as *Zapin Asli*, *Gurindam 12 Raja Ali Haji*, *silat* and *tarian silat*.

"Other performances included dance numbers of *Bajau*, *Zapin*, *Orang Asli* and *Jawa*," he added.

UMP also showcased songs performed by a combination of bands comprising traditional and modern tunes.

One of the highlights was when they performed a medley of two popular *dangdut* Indonesian songs, *Penasaran* and *Kopi Dangdut*.

In conjunction with the visit, UMRAH

delegation who was led by its Rector, Professor Dr. Maswardi M Amin, also toured UMP campuses in Gambang and Pekan as well as several historical sites in Pahang.

They played a friendly futsal game as well that further strengthened the ties between UMP and UMRAH.

The visit ended with a show that combined dancers and musicians from both universities who sang and danced to the tune of *Tualang Tiga*. The choreography was by the Cultural and Creative Arts Secretariat.







## BRIDGING TWO IDEAS: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND SYSTEM DYNAMICS

Project management is not a new discipline as the practicality of project management can be traced back to the Egyptian era through the construction of the Great Pyramid of Giza or to ancient China through the construction of the Great Wall of China. The completion of these great wonders is tied to exceptional planning as well as resources allocation. While project management has always been practiced informally, the emergence of modern project management concept started between 1900s and 1950s. During this period, project management are popular in construction, aerospace, defence and engineering projects. The invention of Gantt chart by Henry Gantt during this period further accelerates the application of project management. Gantt chart serves as a planning and control tool as it breaks project to smaller activities and helps project managers to keep track of the project progress through the illustration of the starting and finishing dates in a bar chart. The introduction of tools like Critical Path Method (CPM) and Program Evaluation and Review Technique (PERT) further signifies the growing interest in project management discipline.

Fast forward to the world we are living now, the application of project management is not only restricted to the four areas described above but also in software development, product development, research projects and also event management to name a few. Today, organizations face new challenges due to the ever-changing and complexity of market environment, economic impact and evolving technologies. Project

managers are no exceptional as project of any sizes are prone to unexpected events such as last minute changes, error, rework, cost overrun, delays and many more, be it due to internal factors or external factors.

The recent inclusion of stakeholder management as the tenth knowledge area in project management by Project Management Institute further justifies the importance of managing different stakeholders e.g. customers, employees, government and general public as these parties have the power to influence project implementation. The other nine knowledge areas are project integration management, cost management, human resources management, scope management, quality management, communications management, time management, procurement management and risk management.

Project management is no longer just a practice of planning, executing and controlling project effectively. Modern project managers not only need to be on constant alert of unexpected events but also to ensure that the processes in each knowledge area are accomplished in order to complete a given project successfully within the given time and budget. Therefore, there is a need for a tool that can assist and prepares project managers to deal with these complexities while making faster and accurate decision.

System dynamics simulation is a methodology for analysing complex systems and problems with the aid of computer modelling and simulation software. This approach originated

from the research of Professor Jay W. Forster at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the late 1950s. Unlike other analysis which studies a problem by breaking it into smaller parts and solves it separately, system dynamics technique involves a broader view, looking at possible interaction among the subsystems to create a better understanding of the big picture.

System dynamics is well suited to address the dynamics complexity of project management especially in the concept phase, implementation phase and evaluation phase. It is the aim of system dynamics to capture the independencies between all activities that made up a project. By capturing the independencies and relationship of different activities, project manager can have a better understanding on how unexpected changes occur in one activity may affect other activities as well as the overall project. Besides that, system dynamics simulation also allows 'what-if' analysis where experimentation can be conducted with extreme factors, constraints or unexpected changes. The effect of these disturbances on the overall project performance can be observed, thus serving as a learning aid for project managers in assisting them to make timely and better decisions.

With the increase complexity in project management, project managers come face to face with uncertainty and difficulty of understanding interconnected cause and effect, masked by time delays. This will no doubt further contribute to higher chances of project failure. Therefore, rather than managing projects in a 'black box', project managers can now opt for system dynamics simulation technique to assist them in tackling uncertainty and complicated plans while managing projects.



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