



Kasim (left) shaking hands with Felix after signing the MoA.

UMS to commercialise water treatment system innovation

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Drilltech Engineering Sdn Bhd to commercialise their water treatment system innovation.

The brainchild of UMS deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof Dr Rosalam Sarbatly, the system is titled Modular Water Treatment System for Removal of Heavy Metals Integration with Open Platform Communication (OPC) Online Monitoring.

According to Rosalam, the system aims to build a complete prototype of a water treatment system that uses local material, is simple to assemble, operate and maintain, requires little to no skill to operate, and is cost-effective.

He explained that a modular system is deemed to be the most effective way to provide clean water supply

to remote places as it is easy to be fabricated using local materials and transported.

In the system, a simple treatment system process through the coupling of the up-flow sand filtration, phytoremediation, and absorption as well as microfiltration (post-treatment) proves to be highly efficient to produce clean water that is also cost-effective.

The innovation is now commercialised by Drilltech after its management director Marius Felix signed the MoA and handed over a cheque of RM20,000 for a five-year commercial licence of the system to UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor.

The MoA signing and cheque presentation was carried out in conjunction with an appreciation dinner to celebrate the winners of the recent UMS Research and Innovation Competition (PEREKA) at Promenade

Hotel here on Thursday.

Kasim congratulated the winners and hoped that their victories can inspire researchers to continue being committed in conducting high-quality research and creating innovations that can bring UMS to the forefront of the world.

"The culture of innovation needs to be instilled in the people of UMS. It needs to be intensified and it is highly encouraged to make it so the innovations can be benefitted by the community," he said during his opening speech.

Also present were UMS deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) Prof Dr Rasid Mail, head librarian Md Sazali Md Salleh, chief information officer Prof Dr Ag Asri Ag Ibrahim and Innovation and Commercialisation Management Center director Prof Madya Dr Jidon @ Adrian Janaun.