

“I Love Research”

In order to inculcate a dynamic research culture at PPIB, the Research and Innovation Unit headed by Dr. Lai Yew Meng, organised a two-day workshop themed “I love research” on 14 - 15 October 2010. During his opening speech at the Novotel, Kota Kinabalu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andreas Totu, the Dean of PPIB, encouraged lecturers to work in collaboration with academics from inside and outside UMS to identify and establish a research niche.

The highlights of this intensive two-day programme included talks on matters and issues pertaining to research and a workshop on writing a research proposal. The talks were delivered by six UMS lecturers, three of whom were from PPIB. Dr. Lai’s briefing focused on the types and sources of research grants. Next, Prof. Dr. Felix Tongkul, the Director of the Centre for Research and Innovation, UMS gave a detailed talk on the significance and impact of research. After that, Dr. Jennifer Chan Kim Lian from the School of Business and Economics, shared her experiences on how to write research proposals for external grant applications. Last but not least, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jason Lim Miin Hwa gave participants some valuable insights on applying for a Fulbright Research Scholarship.

On the second day, Dr. Knttaya Mariappan from the School of Social Sciences spoke on research methodology. His talk was followed by Dr. Saidatul Normis Hj. Mahali’s primer on research grant application procedures. At the start of the workshop session, the participants were placed into five research niches. The participants were then asked to brainstorm for a suitable title for a Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) application. After making an appropriate selection, participants worked on refining their research proposals until the end of the workshop. “1 niche, 1 research proposal” was the anticipated outcome. Another feature of the workshop was the implementation of a mentor-mentee support system designed to motivate and guide inexperienced lecturers in conducting their research. The premise for this support system is that once individuals become aware of the importance of research in their professional development, doing it will become second nature to them. Once this is fully appreciated by PPIB staff it will be easier to establish a collaborative work culture that is focused on research.

