

UMS emerge fourth out of 20 universities in athletics championships

BP 06-03-2012 A20

By Arfandi Jaafar

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) set three new records, while winning four gold medals, six silver and three bronze at the Malaysian Universities Sports Council Track and Field Championships (Masum) 2012, held at the Malaysian University of Technology (UTM) in Skudai, Johor, recently.

The achievement, which was made possible by 15 athletes (9 men and six women) who represented the university, helped the team to a fourth place overall finish.

UMS Sports Unit director, Mohd Asyraaf Fong Abdullah, who announced the news via SMS (short messaging system) yesterday, said he was proud of the achievement, which placed UMS in fourth place, above many others that competed in the championships.

"Out of 20 teams that took part, we managed to finish fourth. It is a great achievement and it was all thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, especially the coaches and athletes," said Asyraaf.

The gold medals were won by Nitas Camillus Tan Sing Bee, Eldy Sham Irlon, Felnidiah Lok Kassim and Emmy Ahkim.

Tan won her gold in the 10km walk with a time of 58:47.8s, while Eldy topped the 400m hurdles in a time of 55.3s.

Felnidiah won the women's 100m hurdles in 16.8s, while Emmy clinched victory in the women's 400m hurdles.

Tan, Eldy and Felnidiah's winning times were noted as new records in their respective events.

"They trained hard throughout the year for the championships and the medals they achieved are deserved rewards for their efforts.

"They made UMS proud," said Asyraaf.

He said some of the athletes would go on to represent the country at the Asean level games in Laos this December.

The championships from March 2-4 saw Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) emerge as overall champions, followed by Mara University of Technology (UiTM) in second place and Universiti Malaya (UM) in third, while Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) completed fifth place behind UMS.