

UMS receives RM10m to carry out researches

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has received RM10.4 million from the government to undertake 40 new researches.

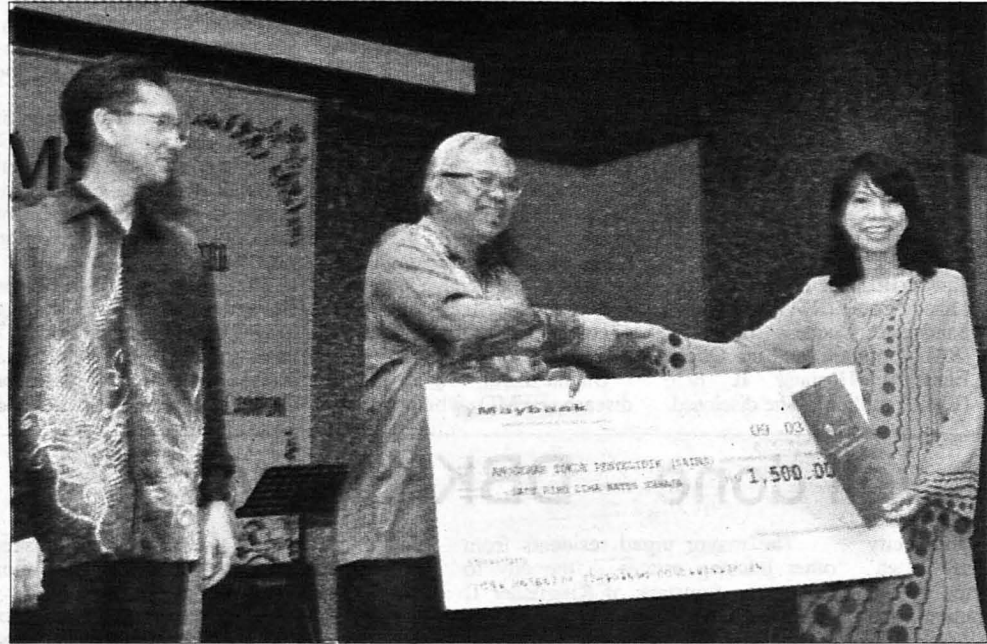
Its vice chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr. Kamaruzaman Ampon said the funding came from the Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

According to him, RM6 million was provided by the Prime Minister's Department through the Pemandu/Entry Point Project 3 (EPP3) to carry out research on commercial seaweed, while another RM1.2 million were given by private and international agencies.

"We hope these researches will be successful which will see the works published and the goals to create quality products will be achieved," he said when speaking at UMS Research Award presentation here Friday night.

Dr Kamaruzaman said the cooperation between UMS and other experts in various fields including those from overseas would put the university to become a renowned research university.

Last year was a historical period for UMS research works, when its research on seaweed management received the attention from the government, which decided to place the work as part of its Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), he said.



Dr Kamaruzaman presenting the award to Dr Patricia

For the nation to become developed, he said UMS would play an important role in producing quality researchers and intellectual individuals, he added.

He added that UMS would continue to seek funds to allow the great minds of academicians and students to be put to good use.

"We need funds to attend national and international events whether they are exhibitions or inventions which will benefit us," he said.

Dr Kamaruzaman said UMS sent 571 academicians to attend such events with 365 of them presenting their research works in these forums.

Among the events were Malaysian Technology Expo (MTE), Biomalaysia, Eksplo

Inovasi Islam (i-NOVA), International Research and Invention IPT and IENA-International Trade Fair, Germany where UMS won eight gold, 11 silver and seven bronze.

He also pointed out that the intellectual properties from the research works were important assets of any university as they could be commercialized.

So far, the university with the assistance of MyIPO Sabah has patented 44 intellectual properties belonging to UMS.

"We have several of them being evaluated now for a possible commercialization in the near future," he said.

At the presentation, three companies Green Leaf Synergy Sdn Bhd, VC United Sdn Bhd and Sebangkat

Reef Eco Plants Sdn Bhd signed a licensing agreement document to commercialise UMS products.

The firms will utilize the techniques created by UMS in the cultivation of seaweed like Eco-Friendly Tie-Tie and fertilizer among others.

They were produced by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Mohd Yasir and his team of researchers from the Science and Technology School.

Dr Kamaruzaman also presented the Researcher Award and a Special Award to the team of researchers, while the Science Research Award was won by Dr Patricia Matanjun and the Social Science Award by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ismail Ibrahim. The Young Researcher Award for Science was won by Lau Tiek Ying.