

Zero waste: UMS inventing incinerator

By ANNA VIVIENNE

KOTA KINABALU: A zero-waste campus is one of University Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) targets and its Engineering School is inventing an incinerator that could help them achieve this bid.

UMS Vice Chancellor Tan Sri Professor Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Abu Hassan Osman said UMS generated tons of food waste from the student hostels and canteens at the campus, which was presently taken away by farm operators as animal feed.

According to him, studies had shown that elsewhere these types of waste could be converted into energy and building materials through chemical processes.

"We at UMS always encourage our staff to focus research in this area. If we can do this I think we can generate income from this research and development activity," he said.

He said this in his speech when officiating a seminar entitled 'Organic Waste: Challenges and Opportunity' yesterday.

The seminar was organised by Environmental Action Committee (EAC) in collaboration with the University Malaysia Sabah, Science and Technology Unity, City Hall and the Environmental Protection Department.

Abu Hassan also said that UMS was committed to research and development in managing waste from different sources such as agricultural, industrial and households.

According to him, research had been conducted on the use of oil palm shell, agricultural waste from the oil palm industry, as an alternative to coarse aggregate in making concrete blocks.

He said this innovative material had earned UMS a gold medal during the 32nd International Exhibition of inventions in Geneva on Mar 31 to Apr 4.

He said the invention was one of eight exhibited, and the credibility of UMS was attested when they received one gold, five silver and one bronze.

"This showed that UMS had achieved a world class research and development on managing agricultural wastes. It is cheap and low technology, yet very appropriate to the State of Sabah, which has the potential to be developed," he said.

According to him, apart from reducing waste the effort had paid off in sustaining development for the future.

Earlier Moktar Yassin Ajam, the seminar's organising chairman said during the next two days, they hoped to get an overview of some of the important and ongoing initiatives that focus on improving waste management.

He said they would also discuss the best ways to support and further develop these initiatives.

He added that in order for the future generations to enjoy the same benefits as this generation or to have a better quality of life everybody should ensure that the utilisation of resources were sustained.

At yesterday's function EAC Deputy Chairman Hiew Nget Yin elaborated on composting, followed by City Hall's Director General Dr Chua Kim Hing's talk on waste management and human attitudes.

Odette Alcantara of Earth Day Network Philippines presented a paper entitled "Changing mindsets; public participation in waste management", while Ruben Posadas the director in



Abu Hassan delivering his opening address.



Moktar (left) presenting a memento to Abu Hassan.

Training and Customer Support Lacto Asia-Pacific Corporation present a paper on 'Ecological Waste Management; Overcoming Challenges.'

The first day ended with a paper on 'Vermiculture' presented by Dr Hasnah Mohd Jais of University Science Malaysia Penang and demonstrations.

More than 200 attended the seminar.

The seminar would continue today with papers presented by Low Siew Wah the manager of Green Valley Natural Organic farm who would be speaking on why he was passionate about natural organic farming, followed by Robert Liao of Yokofarm Committee who would present a paper entitled 'Family Role in Composting.'

Rolando Sianghio, Managing Director of Lacto Asia Pacific Corporation, would present the third paper. His topic would be 'Turning Organic Waste into Resources'.

The talk would continue with a



The participants listening to the speakers.

paper entitled 'Zero Waste Campus' and Conservation and Professor Dr by professor Datin Dr Maryati Ideris Zakaria the Deputy Dean of the School of Engineering and IT. Mohamed of the Institute of Biology