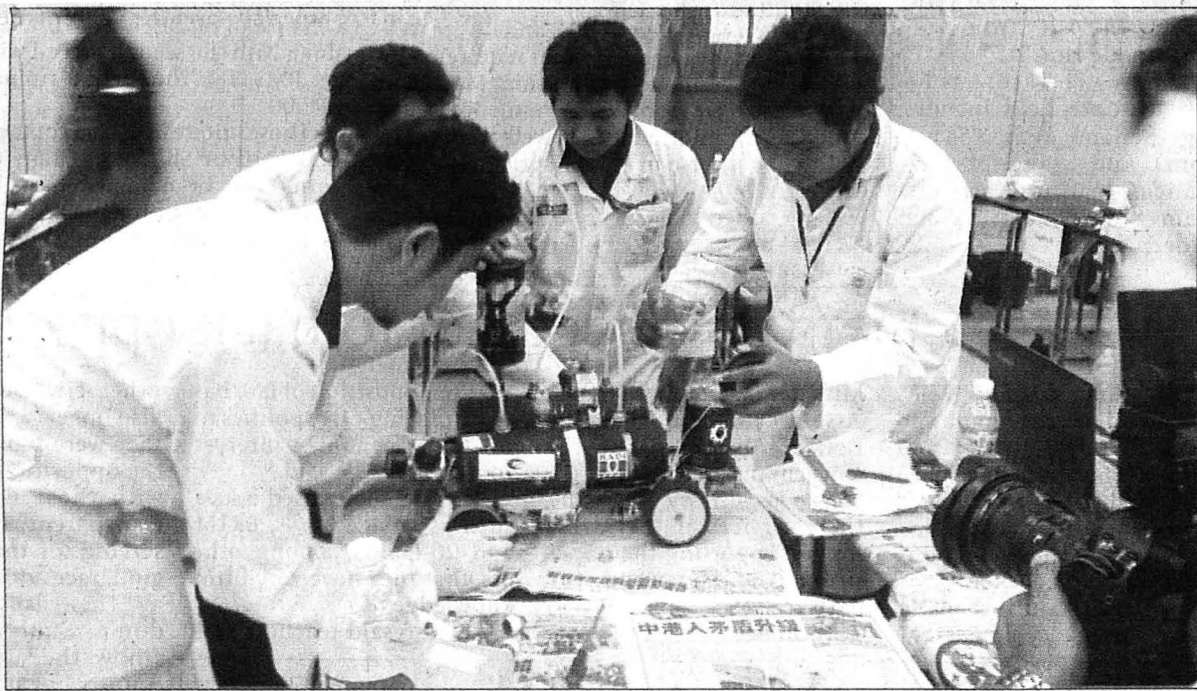


A University students team preparing their mini vehicle for the competition.



Record 33 teams for E-Car competition

Neil Chan DE 13.04.2012 3

KOTA KINABALU: A record 33 local and international university teams took part in the 7th Chem-E-Car competition at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) on Thursday.

The competition is an annual event organised by the Chemical Engineering Technical Division of the Institution of Engineers Malaysia with a selected host institution of higher learning.

IEM Vice President, Chong Pick Eng, said the competition was designed for chemical engineering undergraduates to design and operate a miniature car model powered by a formulated chemical reaction and was intended to showcase the resourcefulness and innovative ideas of the undergraduates.

"This year we are delighted to have UMS host the competition. It is the first time the competition is being held in East Malaysia. I was made to understand that the competition this year is a record, with the participation of 33 teams from not only Malaysia but also Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan and Iran."

He said it is very encouraging to learn that engineering students at new public and private institutions of learning in Malaysia are also taking a keen interest in the competition.

"The participation of teams from outside Malaysia would also provide an opportunity for exchange of technology and knowledge which would be advantageous for our students," he said.

According to Chong, the competition theme this year is "A Brighter Future with Green Power" or in other words sustainable energy is the provision of energy that meets the needs of

the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

"Therefore, it is important for engineers and scientists to develop and formulate alternative fuel sources that will power the world's energy consumption in the future. This competition is a good start to finding future solutions.

"I am extremely happy that IEM is part of this effort where we can provide opportunities for the students to produce innovative ideas that would contribute towards accelerating Malaysia's efforts towards a greener environment."

He said it is essential for universities and institutions to maintain close links with professional bodies such as IEM as well as industry players.

"This move will encourage the development of science and technology as well as enhance innovation.

"The close cooperation between industry and universities would also lead to greater opportunities to produce research that can be commercialised."

According to UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof. Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, the event which has been organised since 2005 has garnered considerable participation from institutions of higher learning both locally and abroad.

He said the event which was being held in Sabah for the first time served not only as a platform for chemical engineering undergraduates to showcase their creativity and apply their knowledge of engineering and chemistry but also a great opportunity for the participants to encounter and experience first hand the local culture of the host state.