

# Public awareness on intellectual property in Sabah still low, says UMS VC

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has received 41 medals for its research and design work last year alone but many have yet to be patented.

Vice chancellor of UMS, Prof Datuk Dr. Kamaruzaman Ampon therefore called on the researchers to patent each one of their research finding and design work in order to protect them from being taken by others who will patent them for their gain.

"We have conducted a lot of research and development and so any discovery that can be commercialised must be protected because it can generate revenue for UMS.

"However, not all findings that we patent can give good returns because some of them cannot be commercialised. But if we patent

them there is a possibility that it can be developed further at a later date," he said.

The 41 medals secured by UMS consisted of 11 gold, 13 silver and 17 bronze in design competitions held at the national and international levels.

Dr. Kamaruzaman was speaking to reporters after officiating at a seminar on intellectual property awareness at the university here yesterday jointly organised with the Malaysian Intellectual Property Organisation (MyIPO) and Yayasan Sabah.

Those present included senior director of MyIPO for design and industrialisation, Mohd Faizuddin Mohd Sharuji and Yayasan Sabah deputy director, Datuk Dr. Johan Ariffin A. Samad.

Earlier in his speech, the vice chancellor admitted that public awareness on intel-

lectual property in Sabah was still low.

"Some assume that it is not an important issue and has no impact on an organisation. Unscrupulous individuals steal the copyright of others to make a profit with no regard for the creator or inventor," he said.

A rampant example is the widespread sale of imitation products and piracy.

"There seem to be no end to the problem despite strict enforcement. I therefore hope this seminar will make the public more aware of the importance of protecting intellectual properties," he added.

Intellectual properties can be ideas, fictional work, poems, songs, design work, art products, name of a product, chemical formulas, machines and computer software. — BY MARRYAN RAZAN



Dr. Kamaruzaman stops at one of several exhibition booths set up at the seminar. Mohd Faizuddin is at right and Dr Johan; third from right.