

# Chuah and Felnidiah UMS Sportsman, Sportswoman

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Chuah Jia Peng and Felnidiah Lok Lassim were crowned the 2011 Universiti Malaysia Sabah Sportsman and Sportswoman of the year at the UMS Sports Awards Ceremony here, Monday.

Both winners claimed the honours after being recognised for their achievements at the Malaysian Universities Sports Council (MASUM) Games, last year.

Chuah won the award for his unmatched performance in swimming events, winning seven gold medals including three new records, while sprinter Felnidiah was recognised for her outstanding achievements in the track and field.

They each received RM1,000, a trophy and certificate.

The UMS swimming sensation from Taiping, Perak, who is a final year medical student, was not present to receive his award, but Felnidiah was all smiles when met by reporters shortly after the ceremony.

"I'm really happy and grateful to win this award and I thank everyone who supported me," said the 21-year-old lass from Kg Landung Ayang, Kudat.

Felnidiah was the perfect candidate for the award, which also received three other nominees, Asong Joseph (athletics), Dayang Anak Manggie (netball) and Norsyamsiah Waridi (athletics).

There were six nominees for the sportsman award. The others were Asry Abbas (badminton), Kenson Rubanjar (athletics), Nitas Camillus Tan Sing Bee (athletics), Abdul Azim Azizan Abdul Malek (silat) and Pang Tsun Kuo (athletics).

Felnidiah said her passion for running began when she was in Primary Six. Since then the young starlet has been running competitively and is now aiming for big achievements.

She will join the state athletics team for the Malaysia Games (SUKMA) in Pahang this July, where she hopes to improve her personal best time of 14.9s in the 100m hurdles.

Felnidiah made her Sukma debut at the 2006 Games, where



**SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR...**Peter presents Felnidiah with the winner's jacket after the latter was crowned the UMS 2011 Sportswoman at the 2012 UMS Sports Awards ceremony in Kota Kinabalu on Monday. Also in the picture is UMS vice chancellor, Datuk Seri Panglima Professor Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon (left).

she competed in the 200m. But it was the 4x100m relay event that shot her to stardom.

She won the gold that year and later repeated the same feat at the Terengganu Games (2008), where she and her quartet teammates set a new meet record.

In 2010 she ran the hurdles but failed to win a medal. She began training under coach, Remy Abu Bakar in 2011 and is now aiming for a podium finish with an improvement to her personal best time.

"My target this year is to win a medal. I also want to improve on my personal best time. I'm aiming for somewhere in the 14.5s range," she said.

Like many state athletes, Felnidiah, has her sights on a life-long career in sports.

She hopes to be a coach one day and is currently a first year bachelor's degree student in sports science (first year) to fulfil her ambition.

But juggling commitments on the track and in class can be quite exhausting, admitted Felnidiah.

"I have to struggle sometimes to balance my time for my studies

and for training but I have to do my best to cope because both are equally important for me and my career," said Felnidiah.

Other winners on the night include Eldy Sham Irlon, Emmy Ahkim and Lee Min Hee.

Eldy and Emmy won the Promising Sportsman and Promising Sportswoman awards for their athletic achievements on the track, while Lee, the university's taekwondo expert from Korea won the Best Coach Award.

Lee was also honoured when her Poomsae trio clinched the university's Best Team Award.

The university also recorded its appreciation to the various state-level sporting associations in Sabah as well as to members of the media for their continued support in promoting the university's efforts to contribute to the development of sports in the state.

Meanwhile, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Peter Pang En Yin, who officiated at the ceremony hoped the awards would inspire greater sporting achievements from the students.

He called on UMS and its

sporting fraternity to look forward and devise a programme to help the ministry and its agencies to further develop the sporting industry in Sabah.

UMS vice chancellor Datuk Seri Panglima Professor Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon, who was also present said UMS will continue its commitment on the development of sports.

He said the staging of the Asian Universities Taekwondo Championships this October (11-13) is a sign of recognition of UMS' ability to organise and host world class sporting events.

Kamaruzaman said UMS is the first university in the country to be given the mandate to stage this prestigious international championship.

UMS has also identified six secondary schools in and around Kota Kinabalu, which are adopted for the purpose of identifying and developing taekwondo talents.

It is the university's mission and vision to groom the young talents through its adopted schools programme so that those students will continue their studies at UMS.