

# UMS lead on first day

## Raymond Toh's double gold helps UMS domination

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By Arfandi Jaafar

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) bagged two taekwondo gold medals to lead the pack on the first day of events at the inaugural Malaysia Institutes of Higher Learning Championships in Nilai, Negeri Sembilan, yesterday.

Raymond Toh Meng Hui delivered the first gold after beating favourite and national exponent, Too Lap Weng in the Individual Poomsae. He later went on to clinch another gold in the Men's Team event together with Yeo Kok Siong and Fakrurazi Razali.

UMS contingent chief, Mohd Asyraf Abdullah, described Toh's achievement as another milestone for UMS' Centre for Taekwondo Excellence, after a Korean coach was appointed early this year.

"This is a great achievement for UMS and we are very proud of Raymond's victory. He only started competing in Poomsae events recently after we persuaded him to switch from Kyorugi.

"He has shown tremendous improvement after just one year and we look forward to greater achievements from him next year," said Asyraf, who is also UMS Sports Unit director.

He said the 22-year-old third-year social science student from Johor is now one step closer to realising his dream to one day compete for the country.

UMS also won bronze in the women's category through



Raymond (centre), Yeo (4th left) and Fakrurazi (4th right) stand at the top of the podium after winning gold in the Men's Poomsae Team event.

Melda Dahalan, who later paired with Fakrurazi to clinch silver in the Poomsae Mixed.

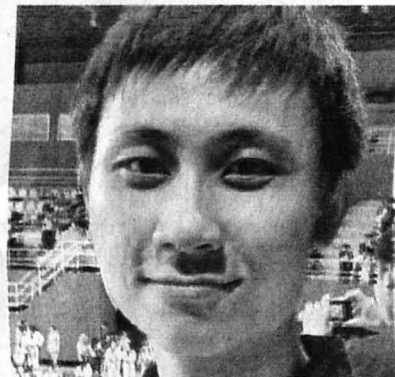
The 15-day carnival-like event, which was launched by Malaysia Higher Education Minister, Datuk Seri Mohd Khaleed Nordin at UiTM Shah Alam on Sunday, is the largest sporting event of its kind in the country.

A record total 101 contingents (including 87 participants from the UMS camp) are competing

in 15 sporting disciplines, including archery, athletics, badminton, bowling, karate, netball, shooting, swimming, tennis and taekwondo. Other events are volleyball, beach volleyball, chess, rugby and sepak takraw.

UMS is competing in all disciplines except swimming and tennis.

Also present at the opening ceremony was National Sports Council director-general, Datuk Zolkples Embong.



Raymond Toh