



Harun (fourth from left), Shahril (fifth from left) and Felix with award recipients.

# UMS sets up 4 research units

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Four research units have been set up at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) on seaweed, oil palm trees, heritage and tuberculosis in its efforts to strengthen research niches that are needed in the State.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, who was officiating at a Research Award ceremony at Promenade Hotel here on Friday, said these units were established in 2012.

"Research and innovation will be able to get us the High Centre of Excellence recognition from the Ministry of Higher Education."

He said the intellectual property based on technology to process seaweed with a mini estate concept at UMS is now licensed and will be commercialised.

"Intellectual property through research and innovation is an important asset for a university as it can generate income if commercialised properly."

According to him, UMS and Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO Sabah) have protected 23 intellectual properties. "Some of these will hopefully be successfully commercialised in the near future."

To maximise the potential for commercialising UMS' innovation, he pointed out that a MOU was established with the Malaysian Innovation Agency last year.

"It will be helping UMS in terms of industry matching, law advice and negotiation processes with potential industries."

In relation to this, he announced that a satellite office would also be set up at UMS which can benefit researchers.

He added that UMS' participation in both local and international competitions have boosted their image.

"About RM8.3 million was also allocated by

the Government through a few ministries, among them the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti), to enable 80 new research activities to be carried out by UMS staff."

Apart from that, he pointed out that the Higher Education Ministry also approved an allocation of RM200,000 for technology transfer in aquaculture, while RM2.4 million was sponsored by local and international agencies for 11 research projects. He hoped the smart partnership between UMS and international industries as well as universities would be continued and strengthened.

Among grants provided by the ministry include the Fundamental Research Grant, Long Term Research Grant, Exploratory Research Grant, Prototype Research Grant and the Technology Transfer Programme Grant.

"Those who are unable to secure a research grant will hopefully double their efforts and also look into non-government funding."

This is vital as having your work published based on the research you have conducted is an important criteria in evaluating the quality of the researcher.

Meanwhile, the Anugerah Tokoh Penyelidik Malim was given to Associate Professor Dr Charles S. Vairappan.

Other awards given were the Anugerah Tokoh Penyelidik Sains (Associate Professor, Dr Clemente Michael Wong Vui Ling), Anugerah Tokoh Penyelidik Muda Sains Sosial (Associate Professor, Dr Ismail Ali), Anugerah Tokoh Penyelidik Muda sains (Dr Mohd Fadzelly Abu Bakar) and Anugerah Tokoh Penyelidik Muda Sains Sosial (Ricky Chia Chee Jiun).

Among those present were Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr Shahril Yusof, and Director for Innovation and Research Centre, Professor Dr Felix Tongkul.