

Improve UMS through quality research: VC

DE 4.6.2016 4
Neil Chan

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah has urged academic staff to inculcate a culture of research and innovation in their work to ensure UMS continues to be a reference and remains respected in the country and also internationally.

"In the context of a country that aspires to be a developed country, the university is not only responsible for producing quality human capital but also should serve to generate new knowledge and intellectual property of high quality through research and innovation activities."

He said this at the UMS Researchers Awards event (APUMS) 2015 held at the UMS Chancellor Hall, Friday, where three UMS staff received recognition awards for their work.

Harun said the awards were held to recognise the contributions of UMS researchers who have raised the name of UMS at the national and international stage and can serve to give inspiration and encouragement to researchers to produce more high-quality research with potential for commercialisation.

"Recalling the achievements in the field of research UMS 2015, UMS has received a total of RM7.1 million to fund 69 new research projects. The research grants are obtained from government agencies (RM 4.7 million), private sector (RM720,000) and international institutions (RM 1.7 million)."

He said in addition, UMS has also won 12 gold medals at national and international level for research and innovation projects.

"It is with pride that UMS for the first time had brought home two Special Award Platinum, four Gold, two Silver and one Bronze in the innovation competition at the British Invention Show (BIS).

"This suggests that the ability of our researchers to produce high-quality research recognised by international assessors."

He said other than providing recognition for researchers, the university also supported the research culture among lecturers.

He said each year the university had allocated up to RM2 million for UMS internal research grants (SGPUMS).

The scheme is divided into two cate-



Harun (centre) presenting a recognition award to one of the recipients.

gories which are the Newly Appointed Lecturer Scheme (SPLB) for junior researchers and the Main Field Research Scheme (SPBK) which focuses on the main thrust of the university.

To assist researchers in conducting their research, a Research Clinic was created.

The clinic is operated by several UMS experts in the field of statistics, experimental design, data analysis, quantitative and qualitative.

The clinic is expected to help researchers in the preparation of quality research proposals and the preparation of research articles for journals.

In order to assist researchers who have ideas that can be developed into a field of research that can be commercialised, UMS has created another clinic namely the Innovation Clinic.

The clinic will be operated by a number of experts from outside the UMS, in particular from the industry. The clinic is expected to provide advice and give their thoughts on the ideas proposed by researchers in addition to providing a mechanism and facilitate programmes for researchers to identify and highlight the commercial potential of their research.

He said for the creation of clinics, the university has allocated RM60,000 for the implementation of these clinics in the form of an honorarium to a specialist. It is understood that these clinics will start operations from June 6, this year and be

placed in the Research and Innovation Centre Office.

He said despite the production of high-quality research, there was a need for a laboratory equipped with sophisticated instruments and modern.

He said as such, a UMS laboratory has successfully been accredited with MS ISO 15189 Medical Tests: Haematology Haemostasis Laboratory in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

"This laboratory will enable UMS to become a centre of reference and training specifically related to the diagnosis of bleeding diseases either at national or international level.

"Hopefully, this lab can also contribute to the generation of revenue through services accredited to the private sector, including hospitals and clinics."

Harun said he also believed that high-quality research can serve as an important asset to the university.

Therefore, it is also able to produce high-impact publications that allow these articles to be listed in indexed journals as SCOPUS, Web of Science and ISI-Thomson Reuters.

Thus, the benefits of high-quality research results not only can improve the performance of UMS in the Malaysia Research Assessment (MyRA) but also in the QS University ranking.

Also present at the event was UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof. Dr Shahril Yusof.