



Dr Takeshi (fourth right) receiving the award from Tangau.

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UMS researcher wins gold at BioMalaysia

KOTA KINABALU: A researcher from Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) Tropical and Conservation Biology Institute (IBTP) Dr Takashi Kamada garnered a gold medal at the BioMalaysia 2016.

Held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre recently, Kamada who obtained the award through his research titled 'Novel anti-inflammatory drug from Bornean Red Alga *Laurencia nangii*', bested researchers from 12 other universities in the Medical Biotechnology category.

Kamada said nature has long been a good resource and inspiration to develop medicines and Borneo Island is blessed with a rich and vast biodiversity resources.

"The intensive research will lead to

the finding of new anti-inflammatory agents," he said on the research conducted together with IBTP Director Prof Dr Charles S.Vairappan and Chin-Soon Phan.

At the BioMalaysia 2016, UMS also made a significant achievement by grabbing the BioPitch Award through Biotechnology Research Institute (IPB) researchers Associate Prof Dr Kenneth Rodrigues and Dr Daisy Vanitha John.

They received the award through the Lepto-AD product, a *Leptospira* antigen detection kit which was produced through a commercial and marketing development joint venture with Platcomm Ventures Sdn Bhd.

The production cost for the kit is also low, a tenth of the price of commercially

available products.

The awards were presented by Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau.

Meanwhile, UMS Deputy Research and Innovation Centre Director Dr Azaze @ Azizi Abdul Adis said the capability of the varsity's researchers to obtain support from the industry had showcased a new evolutionary synergy between industry players and scientific researchers.

"Such strategic approach is important as it does not only produce high impact studies but also ensures that the education and research institutions utilise public funds to develop effective scientific solutions for local problems," he said.