

# UMS to maintain support for research activities

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will continue to support innovation and research activities by its citizens.

According to UMS deputy vice chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor Dr Shahril Yusof at the closing ceremony of the Research and Innovation (PEREKA) 2016 competition at Kompleks Dewan Kuliah Pusat Ke-2 near here yesterday, despite tight financial control, the field of research and innovation are two areas that needed to be continually supported.

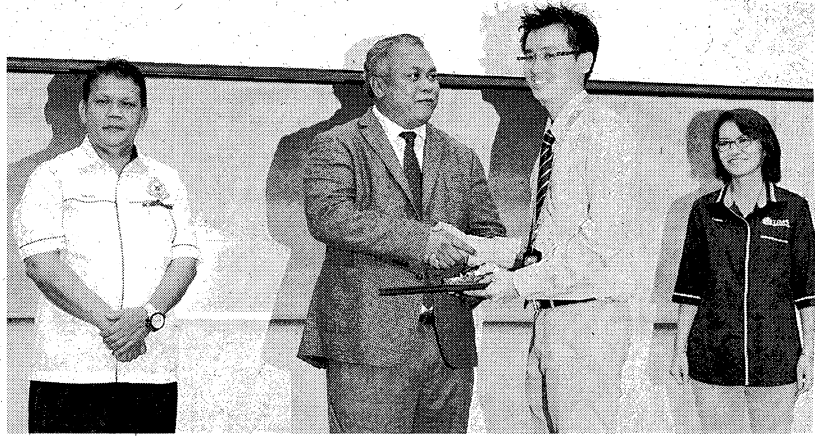
He said this was in line with the function of the university and the key performance index of UMS' strategic plan.

"In our effort to encourage the culture of research and innovation, the university management shall give priority to facilitating research activities," he said.

"This includes providing research incentives, providing internal research grants under the UMS Research Grant scheme for its academic staff and the Postgraduate Research Grant Assistance for its postgraduate students," he said.

The university also introduced the Collaborative Grant scheme for researchers and faculties that forged joint research with other local or foreign institutions.

"The aim is to increase the number and quality of researches, to increase the number of researchers and



Shahril (second left) presenting the prize to one of the winners.

improve on their quality, to raise the university's achievement in the Malaysia Research Assessment (MyRA) and increase the university's publications and involvement at both national and international levels," he said.

Meanwhile, the UMS Research and Innovation Centre director Professor Dr Lee Ping Chin said they had received 251 projects in the competition this year.

Out of the total projects, 177 were categorised under research while 74 were under innovation.

She added that the total signified a hike of about four percent in participation as compared to the previous year.

There were 10 categories in the competition this year, namely educational aid; biosciences and biotechnology; agriculture, forestry and food; physical sciences, environment and energy; social sciences,

humanities, arts, education; information and communication technology; health and medical sciences; business and economics; engineering and technology; and eco campus.

The gold winners of the research category were Professor Dr Charles Vairappan, Professor Dr Md Shafiquzzaman Siddiquee and Professor Dr Rossita Shapawi, while the gold winners under the innovation category were Professor Dr Sharifudin Md Shaarani, Dr Aslina Baharum and Dr Gaim @ James Lunkapis.

During the event, a mock cheque presentation by Villaco Sdn Bhd to UMS totalling RM84,800 for the licensing and commercialisation of the LAMB Paddy Dryer also took place.

The innovation was made by UMS Engineering Faculty senior lecturer Dr Jidon Adrian Janaun.