

Community House built using IBC system

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KOTA KINABALU: A joint research between Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) has successfully produced a Community House in Tawau, using the Interlocking Brick Construction (IBC) System.

The project received a RM1 million research grants under the Higher Education Ministry's Translational Research Program.

UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin in a press statement yesterday, said the Tawau Parliament Community House, which involved the participation of Kolej Vokasional and Kolej Komuniti Tawau was inspired by Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Mary Yap Kain Ching.

It started since September this year, and was completed early last month, equipped with basic facilities such as water and electricity, Kamarudin said.

"The size of the community house is 650 square feet, including living room, kitchen, three rooms and washroom.



Yap (third right) handing over a mock house key to Hashim.

"Since the construction is using IBC system, it was done faster compared to the conventional construction system. Even the cost is 20 per cent cheaper, and at the same time the form work and plastering works were easier," he said.

Kamarudin added that in line with the green technology, the UMS Engineering Faculty also did a research on palm oil and quarry ashes as mixed materials

apart from sand and soil in the interlocking brick system.

"The palm oil and quarry ashes are high potential wastage that can be recycled as additive. This innovation will be focusing on producing cheaper and more efficient IBC bricks.

"UMS has the opportunity to turn this research into a reality through a brick making machine under the Translational Research Program that is currently placed

in the university.

"I hope this community project will give positive impact to the house building in Sabah," he said during the house handing over ceremony to one of the recipients recently.

Meanwhile, Yap who is also Tawau member of parliament, said several criteria had been identified before qualifying for the house.

"Low income and single mother are some of the criteria being taken in choosing the right recipients for this project," she said.

During the ceremony, Yap handed over keys to Hashim Maidin from Jalan Bukit Quion to receive the house.

Also present were deputy vice chancellor of UMS, Professor Dr Shahril Yusof, dean of UMS engineering faculty Professor Dr Abdul Karim Mirasa, senior director of UTM engineering faculty Professor Dr Mahmood Tahir, Tawau Community College director Rashid Saad and Tawau Vocational College director Ragiah Muthusamy.