

UMS-UTM produce community houses using IBC system

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) have successfully produced Community Houses at Kampung Blok 31, Jalan Bukit Quoin, Tawau using the Interlocking Brick Construction (IBC) System with the research grant Translational allocation from the Ministry of Higher Education KPT) worth RM1 million.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kamarudin D Mudin said, the Tawau Parliamentary Community House project involving the Tawau Vocational College and Tawau Community College was inspired by the Deputy Higher Education Minister, Datuk Dr. Mary Yap Kain Ching, with construction started in mid-September 2017, and is fully equipped with basic amenities such as water and electricity in early November.

"The 650-square-foot Tawau Parliamentary Community House is built and equipped with living room, kitchen, three rooms and bathroom facilities.

"Compared to conventional construction systems, the speed of construction of the house is quite impressive because it uses the IBC System where its arrangement technique is quite simple, even the cost of construction is 20 percent cheaper and at

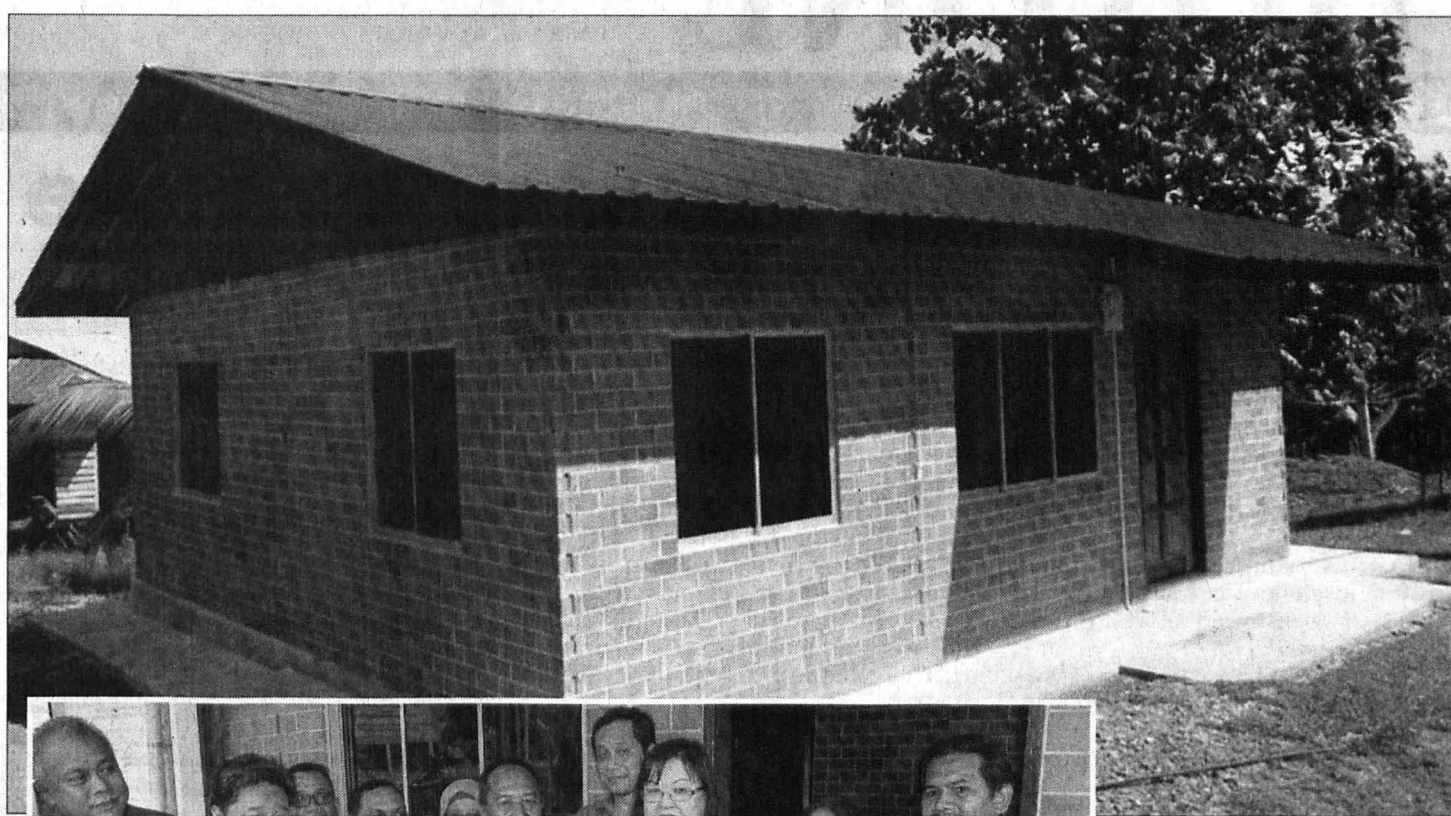
the same time, the use of formwork and plastering techniques (plastering) facilitates the process of building this community house," he said.

Kamarudin added that in line with green technology that supports environmental sustainability, the UMS Faculty of Engineering (FKJ) also conducts research on the use of oil palm ash combustion (Pofa), and quarry dust as a mixture of materials other than cement, sand and clay in the IBS System'.

"Pofa and quarry dust are highly potential wastes for recycling as additives. This innovation will focus on lowering the cost of IBS brick generation while enhancing construction techniques to be more efficient.

"UMS has the opportunity to realise this research through a brick-making machine plant that has been allocated under the 'Translational Research Program' which is now located at UMS campus, Kota Kinabalu," said Kamarudin.

He also hoped that the community project would have a positive impact on the construction of more sustainable housing costs and drive the economy and the well-being of families through the construction of the community homes.



One of the community houses built using the Interlocking Brick Construction (IBC) system in Bukit Quoin, Tawau.

Yap (third left) presenting a community house key to a recipient.