UMS finish second, Emmy Akim wins

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) had a fruitful outing at the Malaysian Universities Sports Council (MASUM) Track and Field Meet held in Kuala Lumpur over the weekend.

They finished second best overall behind eventual winners Universiti Putra Malaysia.

UMS bagged four gold medals, including three in record feats, to set a new benchmark since their first appearance in the annual championship in 1995.

Emmy Akim's crowning of the Best Sportswoman award was also the first of its kind for UMS, while outstanding performances by Eldy Sham and Max Anzie also played a part in the overall achievement.

Emmy set a record time of 1:00.08s in the Women's 400m Hurdles, while Eldy conquered the men's event with a record time of 53.85s. He also bagged bronze medals in the 100m and 4x400m.

Max set the other record in the Javelin (52.24m) after contending for silver in the Shot Put. The other gold medal came from Mary Gabali in the Long Jump (4.91m).

UMS Sports Centre Director Mohd Asyraaf Fong revealed, UMS participation in past editions of MASUM have never seen a UMS athlete win the Sportsman/Sportswoman award.

"It was also the closest we have come in our quest for top honours in our 18-year affair with the Meet.

"We are proud of all our athletes especially those who went on to set new records and brought home medals," he added.

Universiti Sains Malaysia finished third overall with four gold, three silver and two bronze, medals while Universiti Putra Malaysia clinched the overall champions title after hauling 12 gold, five silver and two bronze medals.

A total of 20 university contingents competed in the four-day Meet, hosted by University of Malaya (May 9-12).