



Dr. Harun (4th from-right, front row) posing with the award winners and UMS senior officials.

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## UMS getting more research grants

### Hayati Dzulkifli

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is getting more research grants this year compared to last year, said its Vice-Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah.

He said the university received more than 20 such grants this year given by government ministries especially the Higher Education Ministry, and others like the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti).

"The increasing trend (of receiving the grants) which is very encouraging has reflected the capabilities of UMS lecturers and researchers to move forward.

"Most of the grants were obtained through the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) and several schemes to work on same research with other universities," he said.

Dr. Harun said this to reporters after attending a luncheon with the exhibition award winners 2013 at national level held at the Chancellory Building of UMS here on Tuesday.

A total of 30 participants from

UMS contested in two exhibitions - Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) 2013 on Feb 21 to 23 2013 and International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX) 2013 from May 9 to 11 in Kuala Lumpur.

Of 30 participants, UMS brought home nine gold awards, eight silver, nine bronze, four receiving certificates and one special award - Women Inventor of the Year that was awarded to Jinky Jane C. Simeon for her innovation entitled U9 Xlophone.

Dr. Harun said the positive upward trend in receiving grants is also in tandem with the UMS objective to produce more high impact research.

In addition, he said, joint research involving cooperation with other universities in the country has also increased.

"In carrying out significant research, more experts are needed to produce high quality research and by saying this, I see that having more senior lecturers who are experienced would help UMS get the grants for our research.

"Therefore, networking cooperation from all quarters from

various level would assist us in procuring more grants," he said.

Earlier, Dr. Harun said UMS has launched a strategic plan 2013-2017 with a theme 'Sustaining Excellence Towards International Prominence' that has seven UMS Key Results Area (UMS - KRA).

"One of them is focusing on research and innovation by increasing excellence in both aspects by targeting 50 per cent increase in receiving number of awards either in exhibition or competition at national or international level.

"Hence, participation of researchers and lecturers in such related exhibitions is vital to realise the UMS-KRA and to promote and uplift UMS at the global arena," he said.

Dr. Harun said such criteria is also included in the Malaysia Research Assessment (MRA) which is the priority for the university to achieve the five-star rating by the Education Ministry.

Apart from this, he said UMS also aims to ensure its innovation products that are recognised through awards would be commercialised.