

# UMS gets 20 R&D grants, says VC

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By Murib Morpi

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has received more funds for its research and development programmes, with over 20 grants from various ministries so far this year.

Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said the university was also showing encouraging improvement in the number of joint researches conducted with other local universities.

He said the positive trend was an indication of a growing recognition and confidence towards the capability and potential of UMS' academicians and researchers.

"Basically, we have received more than 20 grants for various researches, mostly from the Education Ministry and other ministries," he told reporters after a luncheon with winning research teams from UMS who have won various awards in recent innovation exhibitions, yesterday.

Harun said the majority of funding were received through the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) as well as several others secured through

collaborative researches with other universities.

"With the mentor system, particularly with the involvement of the senior lecturers and other experienced staff, it helps UMS a lot in getting research grants. Networking that allows collaboration and support from all levels helps us in securing more funding," he said.

Earlier in his speech at the function, Harun said UMS had just launched a five-year Strategic Plan to push towards sustainable excellence and international prominence.

He said the 2013-2017 Strategic Plan underlined seven main Key Result Areas, with one of them placing emphasis on research and innovation.

Achieving 50 per cent increase in the number of awards received in research and innovation exhibitions, both at local and international levels, was one of the targets set under the Plan, he added.

"We are not just looking at winning awards but more importantly coming up with innovation and products that can be commercialized, have high impact on the university and the society," he said.

In the International Invention,

Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) 2013 held last month, UMS won 13 awards from 14 entries it submitted, six of which were Gold awards.

The University also took home seven Silver awards and a Certificate of Recognition from the event.

Before that, in the Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) 2013 held in February at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) Kuala Lumpur, UMS won three Gold,



UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah (front, fourth right) in a group photo with all the award recipients during the luncheon yesterday.

a Silver and nine Bronze awards. They even won the "Women Inventor of the Year" through

School of Art Studies' lecturer Jinky Jane C. Simeon who invented U9 Xylophone, a cheaper

and user friendly musical instrument inspired by traditional xylophone known as Gambang.



Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah (right) presenting a certificate to one of the award winners, Dr Balan Rathakrishnan.



Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah (right) presenting a certificate to one of the award winners, Jinky Jane C Simeon.