

The UMS team with a trophy and mock cheque for RM100,000 after emerging tops in the Enactus Malaysia National Exposition in Kuala Lumpur recently.

UMS wins Enactus contest

second year running: Team heading to Mexico in September after national-level win

ROY GOH KOTA KINABALU roygoh@nst.com.my

WELVE students from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will be competing for the second consecutive year in the Enactus World Cup, which will be held in Cancun, Mexico in September.

The team successfully defended its title in the Enactus Malaysia National Exposition, which was participated by 28 teams from institutions of higher learning and held in Kuala Lumpur recently.

The team bagged RM100,000 after emerging tops in the national finals, where they were pitted against teams from Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara and Universiti Tenaga Nasional.

Enactus is a programme run by an international non-profit organisation that works with institutions of higher learning in 39 countries.

It mobilises students to run community projects, while developing their social responsibility skills.

Enactus was formerly known as Students in Free Enterprise and is followed by over 1,600 universities worldwide.

The annual competition is in its 13th year.

In the recent competition, the UMS team presented two projects.

One was themed "Payao", which focused on the effort to increase the catch and earnings of the fishing community on Pulau Mabul, Semporna, while the second was themed "Unfold", which emphasised on ways to assist the disabled and poor.

"Payao" project team leader Celine Alexandra said the team would do its best in the world cup, which will be held from Sept 29 to Oct 1.

"I am glad that our project won the hearts of the jury.

"I am also pleased that we could help the people on Pulau Mabul."

"Unfold" project team leader Aarston Friend Dickson said the competition had been an emotional journey, especially in the experience of working with the disabled and underprivileged.

"Enactus, through the nationallevel competition, allowed us the opportunity to learn.

"At the same time, we were able to help those in need."

UMS Student Affairs and Alumni Department Entrepreneurial Development Centre director Mat Salleh Ayub said support from the top management in UMS had helped the team reach its goals in the competition.

Mat Salleh said UMS vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, deputy vice-chancellor Associate Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Md Mansur and Labuan UMS International Campus director Associate Prof Dr Ismail Ali were instrumental in guiding the team.

"Mexico is the next focus and the team is working hard to prepare for the challenge."