



Professor Dr Shariff Abd. Kadir Shariff Omang Al-Haj (middle) at the closing of the seventh Research and Innovation Competition yesterday, with Professor Dr Felix Tongkul (far left).

UMS urges winners to commercialize research breakthroughs

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is encouraging winners of the annual Research and Innovation Competition (Pereka) to commercialize their research breakthroughs and products of innovation.

"After the attainment of the awards, products of innovation should also be successfully commercialized," said the university's vice chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.

"Efforts and manpower need to be mobilized by all parties in UMS so that the university will not miss out on product commercialization.

"This is consistent with the generation of income for the university. Whether it be in the form of fees, licenses, royalties and such, the income would contribute towards achieving that intention," Harun said in a speech delivered by deputy vice chancellor (academic and international) Professor Dr Shariff Abd. Kadir Shariff Omang Al-Haj at the closing ceremony of PEREKA in UMS Chancellory 2 Complex here yesterday.

He urged the entire university

community to continue pervading the research and innovation culture whilst the university will continue to give priority to providing the best research facility for this cause.

"Besides research incentives, the university management will go on providing research and innovation grants internally or seed money to young researchers as well as providing funds to assist the postgraduates' research," said the vice chancellor.

He added that the university will also continue to provide funds to protect the intellectual property as well as funds to attend conferences, participation in exhibitions and competitions at the national and international level.

According to Harun, UMS has participated in six competitions and won a total of 18 gold, 26 silver and 23 bronze medals in the country and abroad.

This includes the Malaysian Technology Expo (MTE), International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX), the German International Trade Fair (IENA) and Seoul International Invention Fair (SIIF).

"Some products that have

gained recognition in the country and abroad are now in the process of commercialization," revealed Harun.

UMS PEREKA, held annually since 2008, is a platform for lecturers and researchers to showcase their research and latest innovations to the public.

A total of 241 projects, 164 in the research and 77 in the innovation category, were contested in nine sub-classifications, such as Educational Aids & Education, Biosciences & Biotechnology, Agriculture and Forestry & Food at the competition this year, said deputy vice chancellor (research & innovation) Professor Dr Shahril Yusof, in his speech read by his representative, research and innovation centre director, Professor Dr Felix Tongkul.

Experts from outside UMS, both from academic and government institutions as well as industries, such as Universiti Malaya, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Sabah Education Department, Malaysian Cocoa Board (LKM) and Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd, were invited to ensure an objective and high standard evaluation at the competition, Shahril said.