

Hardship no deterrence for UMS top student

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KOTA KINABALU: A humble family background was no deterrent for a Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Sports Science graduate to emerge as the university's 2014 student of the year.

Christopher Pok Yong Hao, 23, of Melaka was recently awarded a first class honours degree at the 16th UMS Convocation for his academic achievement.

The top student revealed he depended solely on his mother who worked as a promoter for his financial

support ever since his father suffered from a stroke in 2010.

"I have been working during my semester breaks to help supplement my family's income. In fact, working has been my holiday ritual since I was 13," Chris said when met at UMS Navy Reserve Officer Training Unit (Palapes) Regiment dinner here.

Chris who has a younger sibling, was also an outstanding member of Palapes at the university.

"I gained very valuable experience as a member of

Palapes. Here we were taught to spend our time with various activities to strengthen our discipline and character.

"As a member of Palapes, we were given an allowance which I used for my subsistence at UMS," he added.

Christopher also received recognition at the 33rd Palapes Royal Cadet accreditation ceremony held at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Perak where he was awarded the Best Academic Award for Palapes UMS. - Bernama



Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) excellence student Christopher Pok Yong Hao (centre) at UMS Navy Reserve Officer Training Unit Regiment dinner. - Bernama photo