

# Aquaponics wins award for UMS student

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KOTA KINABALU: A Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) alumni made his university proud when he was recently chosen as a "Mosti Social Innovation 2018" recipient by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) for his work on aquafarm business.

Azizul Julirin, who was a student of UMS Faculty of Science and Natural Resources (FSSA) from 2006 to 2010, also received a grant of RM200,000 from Mosti.

"The aquafarm business is a farm with aquaponics features, which is the first fusion of aquaculture and hydroponic system in Sabah. I was inspired to start the business with an environmental-friendly concept after gaining experience during my industrial training in Japan," he said.

He said he plants coral lettuce, pak-choi, green tomatoes, raspberries and

other vegetables in a "rain house" together with fish and lobster breeding. This concept can make the crops more fertile without using fertiliser and pesticides, according to him.

"The aquaponics method is not only free of fertiliser and pesticide but also much more cost effective and produces quick results, in the span of two to three weeks," he added.

On a related note, Azizul said he provides advice as well as guidance to anyone interested in learning the aquaponics business.

He welcomes the public, especially UMS alumni, to learn and involve themselves in the business which at the same will expand the aquafarm business field.

Those interested in learning the business may contact the UMS Alumni Centre (017-6809371).