

# UMS wants more prototypes, products from researchers

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KOTA KINABALU: The Research and Innovation Department of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will focus on translational researches to address societies' issues beginning next year.

"From next year onwards, 70 per cent of research funding channelled in the internal fundings will be allocated for translational projects and researches while the remaining 30 per cent will focus on fundamental science or research," said UMS deputy vice chancellor (research and innovation), Prof. Dr. Shahril Yusof.

According to him, the Industrial Revolution 4.0 calls for more applications development from faculties related to computerisation in order to move towards a paperless world.

"Hopefully we will see more prototypes and products from researchers next year," said Shahril during the closing ceremony of UMS Research and Innovation Competition (PEREKA) 2017 here yesterday.

The annual competition initiated in 2008 entered its 10th installation this year with 249 projects - 186 projects in research category and 63 in innovation.

Aimed to enhance the development of research and innovation, participants competed in 10 categories and were evaluated by 20 judges from industries and tertiary education institutions this year.

In addition, two memorandums of Understandings (MoU) were signed between UMS and industry players during the programme yesterday.

"In conjunction with the year of commercialisation, the university will establish two licensing commercialisation agreements - Eco-solar Dryer created by Dr. Jidon Janaun with Villaco Sdn. Bhd. for 10 years and Formulation of Fixing Agent for Textile from Assoc. Prof. Dr. Coswald Siput @ Mohd. Nazri with Denim Care Sdn. Bhd. for two years," said Shahril.

In the first MoU, UMS granted exclusive rights to Villaco Sdn. Bhd. to produce, market and promote UMS Eco-Solar Dryer

in Malaysia and Southeast region with licensing fee of RM42,400 including GST.

Payment of royalties will also be made annually, calculated on a five per cent basis on profit before tax with a guarantee of minimum RM15,000 royalty paid by Villaco Sdn. Bhd. to UMS for each royalty period regardless of UMS Eco-Solar Dryer sales within the period.

The Eco-Solar Dryer is modified to combine upward and downward drying system which will function more effectively with lower capital cost compared to the conventional dryer.

It could be used for marine or agriculture products drying as well as other substrates that can be dried in a low drying rate.

Meanwhile, the second MoU between UMS Formulation of Fixing Agent for Textile Dyeing Application on Indigo Dye and Denim Care Sdn. Bhd. stated that the company will be given exclusive rights to produce, market and promote products created from the formulation across the world.

Licensing fee of RM21,200 including GST will be charged to Denim Care Sdn. Bhd. with annual royalty payment of one per cent on a turnover basis or gross sales before tax.

A minimum royalty guarantee of RM10,000 will also be paid to UMS for each royalty period regardless of product sales from the formulation within the same period.

The Formulation of Fixing Agent for Textile Dyeing Application on Indigo Dye is a high quality urethane-based fixing agent formulation which can be an alternative for current fixing of denim dyeing.

Also present during PEREKA 2017 were vice chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr. D Kamarudin D Mudin, deputy vice chancellor (student affairs and alumni) Prof. Dr. Ismail Ali, acting deputy vice chancellor (academic and internationalisation) Prof. Dr. Rasid Mail, university registrar No'man Datuk Hj. Ahmad, university librarian Dyg Rukiah Ag Amit and Innovation and Research Centre director Assoc Prof Dr Lee Ping Chin.