

# UMS Civil Engineering undergraduates launch beach-cleaning machine

NST 7.12.2019 7  
By JASON JACK EBIT

**KOTA KINABALU:** A team of final year Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Civil Engineering undergraduates have recently launched their beach cleanup machine prototype in an effort to create an innovative environmentally-friendly machine.

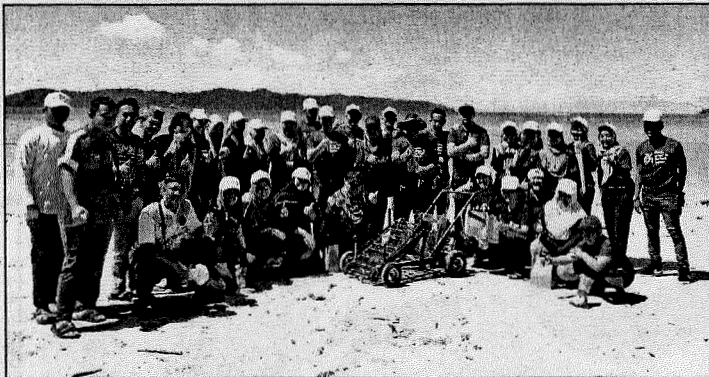
The project was lead by Assoc. Prof. Dr Nurmin Bolong, Assoc. Prof. Dr Ismail Saad and Mohd. Amran Madlan, a multi-disciplinary team lecturers from UMS faculty of engineering.

The officiating of the project was held in conjunction with the beach cleanup activity at UMS Outdoor Development Center (ODEC) as one of the Environmental Engineering Sustainability Project 2019. The new beach cleaning machine prototype was sponsored by the UMS Innovation Scheme Grant.

According to Dr Nurmin, the beach cleaning machine is not something new. However the effort in this project is to create an innovative environmentally-friendly machine and implement a design that could be used in our daily life.

"During the launching event, we conducted a test towards the eco-beach cleaner machine at UMS ODEC, to gain feedback from the participants and users.

"The new eco-beach cleaning



**Students and lecturers of Faculty of Engineering UMS in a group photo after the beach cleaning activity with the Eco-Beach cleaner machine. Also present in the photo were Dr Nurmin and Muhammad Hirzi.**

machine is designed and locally manufactured by the faculty of engineering UMS students' team in collaboration with ES Jesselton Engineering Sdn. Bhd.," she added.

She further explained that the innovation project aims to make beach cleaning effortless with the possibility of performing sand cleaning operations beyond the beach and is usable by the public.

"The machine is engineered to collect rubbish on the beach surface with simple mechanical work (chain and sprocket) using minimum electrical power and produce a low noise impact.

"It is easy to operate and ma-

neuvrable; perfect for one-man operation on a small beach with a capacity of 20 litre containers and can be emptied easily," she added.

Meanwhile, the project leader, Muhammad Hirzi said that he was glad to be involved in the project and urged the people to also invent new ways to clean the beaches.

"I hope that there will be more events, such as this project, that can be held so that the public will be more aware on the importance of beach cleaning.

"Therefore, by cleaning up the beach we are indirectly saving the aquatic life form as well," he added.