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Tajuk : UNIMAS excels in research, product devt

# Unimas excels in research, product devt

By **Karen Bong**  
 reporters@theborneopost.com

**KUCHING:** Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) continued its strong presence in research exposition by winning four Gold medals, three Silver and one Bronze at the Seoul International Invention Fair (SIIF) 2016 held in Seoul, Korea recently.

Unimas vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi said that the achievement was testimony of Unimas' capability and capacity in the international platform.

"This achievement will augur well with our mission and strategic plan to gain global prominence in the international level as well as showcase Unimas' strength in research and product development," he told reporters at the university yesterday.

The nine products researched and produced in the university laboratories, he informed, was selected from among nearly 200 products competed and assessed in the university-level expo held last May.

"There are a lot more products which our students and researchers have invented but these nine were chosen as they meet the criteria," he said.

"We were there to compete with over 600 products submitted from over 30 countries around the world. This is something to be proud of as we came back with four golds, three silvers, and one bronze while another one was awarded with a certificate," he said.

SIIF, Kadim pointed out, was



Kadim (fifth right) in a group photo with some of the researchers.

a very prestigious platform for researchers to exhibit their products that were judged and analysed by professionals.

Moving forward, he said, they were eager to find ways and industry partners to further develop and commercialise the products.

"We welcome industry partners to invest and support our initiatives to bring the products out from the labs and into the market, which is something quite challenging for many universities to do," he added.

The four Gold medal inventions are 'Stormpave: A green pavement technology from the aspects of hydrology' led by Dr Mah Yau Seng; 'Application of coir composite

as an alternative structure for kid's block toys/wooden toys (ACToWood)' led by associate professor Dr Saiful Bahari Yusoff; 'The Shape Shooter: 3-dimensional teaching aid for autistic children' led by Dr Musdi Shanat; and 'Cyclesense: Sensor-based bicycle safety system' led by Dr Johari Abdullah.

The Stormpave is a single unit of three-piece pre-cast concrete block that consists of a top cover, a bottom plate and a hollow cylinder. The top cover functions as road pavement, bottom plate could help in soil stabilisation, and the middle section could cater for urban storm water management.

The idea is to make use of the spaces that can be provided by

the subsurface layer of a road for detention storage of storm water.

ACToWood is produced to be an alternative material for any type of kids' wooden based products using coir fiber, a compound found in coconut husks.

With the combination of natural dye coating and organic as well as recycled based materials, ACToWood is safe for children and the environment.

The Shape Shooter is a three dimensional teaching aid for autistic children between 3 and 6 years old which has been designed ergonomically in size and shape.

The cheerful vivid colour and unique shape are emphasised to attract attention of children with autism so they have a more



Kadim (second right) taking a closer look at the medals and information on the inventions.

enjoyable learning environment.

CycleSense is a jacket equipped with sensor-based system for cyclist on roads. The sensor allows cyclist to signal turning and braking in which the indications will light up on the vest as well as alert cyclist of incoming vehicles.

The Silver medal inventions are 'Stormpave composite pavement' led by Professor Dr Md Abdul Mannam; 'Portable nano-biosensor for rapid detection and quantification of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) antigen' led by associate professor Dr Chin Suk Fun; and 'Upper limb rehabilitation' led by Dr Shahrol Mohamaddan.

The Bronze medal invention is 'Ezz-Vest: Vest with raincoat' led

by Dr Shahrol Mohamaddan and the 'Lightweight: Eco-friendly pandanus based composite' led by Dr Nicholas Kuan Hoo Tien was awarded a certificate.

The SIIF 2016 was hosted by Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and organised by Korea Invention Promotion Association (KIPA) with the judging support provided by International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA).

SIIF has assembled inventions from leading inventors and innovators, academics, research institutions and entrepreneurs who share a common belief that invention is the vital spark that drives the world's technology and new orders of wealth creation.