

Unimas aims for THES ranking

by SAHREIN MALOH

KUCHING – Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) will need another eight more years and more 5,000 quality research journal publications before it can be considered in the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) University Ranking.

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Murtedze Mohamed disclosed that the least requirement to be considered in the THES, a newspaper based in London that reports specifically on issues related to higher education, was the university's minimum established age must at least 20 years.

Murtedze revealed this to reporters at the appreciation dinner on Friday night for the winners of the Public Institutions of Higher Learning (IPTA) Research and Development (R&D) Exposition 2005 held in Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) recently.

At the exposition, Unimas showcased eight R&D products ranging from biotechnology to environmental engineering, and each product won the a prize.

The university bagged two gold, one silver and five bronze medals along with certificates.

On the age factor, Murtedze said there were thousand of universities in the world having been established for over 100 years but not many were

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still not yet ranked in the THES.

He said Unimas was just 12 years old since it was officially incorporated in December, 1992 but would look forward to achieve world's standards.

He said for the next eight years, the university would be targeting to publish the quality journals.

Murtedze said besides the age, the next most important requirement would be the quality of the journal publications.

Universities must publish quality researches and journals that will be classified by the second readers or users who must be international researchers, experts or professionals.

"Its not an easy process to position the university for the THES," said the professor.

In 2004 and 2005, institutions from the United States and United Kingdom had virtually monopolised the highest positions in the ranking.

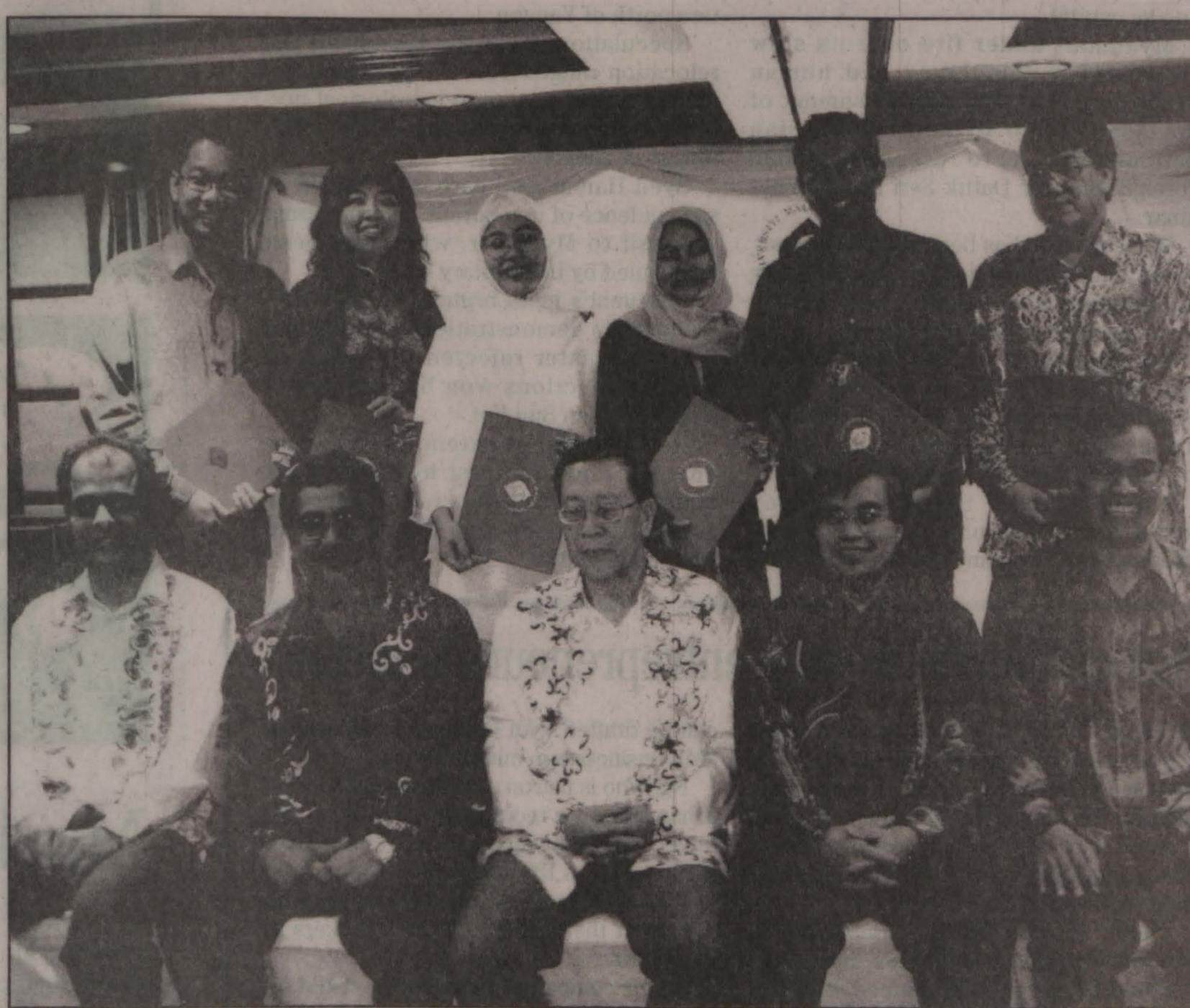
Murtedze also disclosed that Unimas would showcase at least 10 of its R&D products, including some of the award winners at IPTA Exposition 2005, at the 34th International Exhibition in Geneva Switzerland in April.

Among the award winners are 'Easy Wear- Patient Attire in Hospital Wards' by Dr Nazlina Shaari and 'Bio Composite Sago Bark Waste for Interior Decoration Products' by Dr. Khairul Aidil and Azlin Abdul Rahman. Both products won gold medals.

The silver medal winner is the 'Baju Kurung for Breast Feeding' by Norhayati Suleiman while the bronze medalists are 'The Shell of Placuna Placenta Linnaeus: A Potential Material for Interior Products' by Musdi Haji Shanat, 'The Bario Lakuh Digital Library' (Dr. Alvin Yeo Wee and Poline Bala), 'Image Finder: A Content Based Image Retrieval System' (Dr. Wang Yin Chai, Professor Narayanan and Chai Soo See), 'Circular Phase Separation Tank with Inclined Coalescence Plates' (Dr. Law Puong Ling, Ngu Lock Hei and Wong Kien Kuok).

More than 700 exhibitors from 42 countries are to participate at the Geneva exhibition.

Among the guests of honour at the dinner was Unimas board of directors chairman, Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Bujang Mohd Nor.



ONE FOR THE ALBUM : Bujang Mohd Nor (seated centre), Murtedza (seated second left) and Prof Khairuddin Abdul Hamid (seated second right) posing with the winners of the IPTA Research and Development (R&D) Exposition 2005.

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