

Unimas researchers win IPTA awards

KUCHING – Over the past few years, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) has been actively promoting its research at both national and international levels.

Recently, it participated in the Public Institutions of Higher Learning (IPTA) Research and Development (R & D) Exposition 2005 in Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) in Kuala Lumpur.

At the Exposition, Unimas showcased eight R & D products ranging from biotechnology to environmental engineering.

Apart from displaying the R & D products, they were evaluated for their excellent quality and commercial potential by independent judges during the exposition. Unimas researchers won awards in all its exhibits.

They bagged two gold, a silver and five bronze medals along with certificates from the organizer of the exposition.

In conjunction with this achievement, Unimas will hold a dinner to celebrate and present these awards to the successful researchers today at a hotel.

The certificates will be presented by Tan Sri Datuk Amar Hj Bujang bin Mohd. Nor, the Chairman of the University Board of Directors. Unimas research has also attracted some foreign attention,

which includes the Welcome Trust Singer Institute of the United Kingdom.

Professor Balbir Singh, a researcher who is working at the Malaria Research Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak in collaboration with colleagues from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Sarawak Health Department and the Sabah Health Department has recently been granted a sum of about RM1.6 million from the Trust to fund his research for the next three years. There are numerous other research grants received from the European Union.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Murtedza Mohamed is also pleased to announce the establishment of two Centres of Excellence at Unimas.

They are the Malaria Research Centre (MRC) and the Centre for Water Research (CWR). These Centres of Excellence will further enhance the research capability and capacity at Unimas.

MRC's research activities will primarily focus on the molecular epidemiological studies of malaria parasites, while CWR will intensify scientific research on the water resources, particularly of the water

bodies in Sarawak.

In this context Unimas will be inviting their local and international counterparts, as well as State and Federal agencies to collaboratively involve with Unimas in these two areas of research.

In addition, Unimas is also planning to participate in the 34th International Inventions Exhibition in Geneva Switzerland in April 2006.

"This will be the first time Unimas will be participating in this prestigious annual exhibition", commented Dr Awangku Abdul Rahman B. Pgn. Hj. Yusof, the Director of the Research and Innovation Management Centre (RIMC) of Unimas. "We will be competing with at least 735 exhibitors from 42 countries with over 70,000 visitors and investors expected."

Our research and innovation will be benchmarked against those whom Europe, Asia and many other countries", he said. "This will indicate where Unimas is positioned globally with regards to the quality of its research".

The exhibition will provide a massive publicity for Unimas researchers because it will have a media coverage of 650 journalists, including articles in newspapers and programmes in many radio and television station worldwide.

ST P9.4 Fri/6.1.06