

# Varsity studying ways to commercialise products

**KUCHING:** Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid, is not one to gloat – usually.

At a press conference publicising the university's recent strong showing at the British Invention Show, Khairuddin said candidly in his speech: "You know, I was a bit disappointed that a recent newspaper said USM (Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang) won the biggest."

His comment drew laughter the audience. "Unimas won so much more.

Can you imagine, you displayed 11 awards and came away with 11 gold medals and five special awards. Twenty countries participated and we won so many."

On a serious note, Khairuddin revealed that investors had already approached Unimas for commercialisation purposes. Khairuddin said the university was studying between three ways of getting the products to the market.

"First, we could sell the ideas totally to the companies; let them do it (manufacture and sell the products).

"Second, we could have a joint venture, whereby we do our own part with collaboration with the international companies. Or, we could patent the design, which will protect the

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intellectual property."

He was speaking at the first International Conference on Design and Innovation at Unimas here yesterday, which carried the theme of "sustainable ground".

Earlier in his opening speech, the vice-chancellor said Sarawak "still had some way to go" in terms of innovation, research and development. He said the state's strength was its diverse cultures, but that the challenge was bring "everyone together" and adding value to ideas.

He also spoke about difficulties young designers Malaysian designers faced in getting their products manufactured. Khairuddin called it a "weakness" of the Malaysian research and development scene. He said any innovation or invention "left within the confines of a laboratory" was useless to the public at large.