



WINNERS and representatives from UNIMAS with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Prof Dr Peter Songan and Director, Research of Innovation Management Centre (RIMC), Prof Dr Mustafa Abdul Rahman.

# UNIMAS wins 'The Very Best Invention and Innovation Award' at MTE 2012

**KUCHING:** Researchers from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) recently participated in Malaysia Technology Expo 2012 (MTE 2012).

The event, organised by the Malaysian Association of Research Scientists (MARS) and PROTEM Exhibitions Sdn Bhd, took place at Putra World Trade Centre from 16-18 February.

It featured 558 inventions from local and international participants.

UNIMAS showcased 18 inventions and proudly won four gold medals, three silver medals and ten bronze medals.

Assoc Prof Dr Nazlina Shaari from the Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts won "The Very Best Invention and Innovation Award"

through her invention called "Eco-Mordant: Utilising Sago Effluent in Natural Dye Process".

This invention portrays an alternative method of using sago effluents in the natural dyeing process.

There are natural dyes with heavy metal mordants such as copper, iron, aluminum ammonium sulphate and others which are used to enhance the natural pigments.

But Dr Nazlina's invention utilises sago effluents to produce various tones of natural colours in fabrics through the fermentation process.

Toxic and non-biodegradable chemical dyes are being replaced by a dye that is low in toxicity and also biodegradable.

"The Very Best Invention and Innovation Award" won by Dr Nazlina has placed UNIMAS in

second place among national and international institutions of higher learning and organisations from 40 countries which participated in MTE2012.

The participating countries included Korea, Croatia, Russia, Poland, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

In the event, 95 gold medals, 156 silver medals and 194 bronze

medals were awarded to the participants.

The commendable achievement has encouraged and motivated UNIMAS researchers to move forward with their research endeavours in the hope of producing more new inventions and innovations.

It is hoped that commercialisation will generate revenues for the university in the future.