

Surat khabar: New Sarawak Tribune

Hari/Tarikh: 15/04/2012, Ahad

Muka Surat : 15

Tajuk : UPM overall champions of MASUM Games

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*New Sarawak Tribune 15/04/12 a/s: 15*

BY FAIZAL BUJANG

**KUCHING:** Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) emerged overall champions by winning 35 gold, 13 silver and 15 bronze medals in the first phase of the 2012 MASUM (Malaysian Universities Sports Council) Games at the UNIMAS campus in Kota Samarahan which ended yesterday.

Second were Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), thanks to their prowess in winning the futsal (both men's and women's) events, chess (men's and women's), tennis (men's and women's), men's squash, women's ten-pin bowling and women's archery. UTM won 23 gold, 42 silver and 18 bronze medals.

UPM, who were champions in badminton, women's squash and men's archery, tallied 63 points to be the top contingent among the 16 teams from public universities.

Universiti Malaya (UM), who won men's ten-pin bowling and swimming, collected 61 points to end in third place after winning 23 gold, 12 silver and 26 bronze medals.

Home team Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) finished in seventh place as they

won only one gold, one silver and one bronze medal, to collect three points. UNIMAS won the gold in the men's ten-pin bowling (doubles) and the silver in the women's 100m backstroke swimming event.

UNIMAS Vice Chansellor, Prof. Datuk Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid, officiated at the closing ceremony at Dewan Tuanku Abdul Rahman Putra (DeTAR).

Also present at the ceremony were the chairman of MASUM and president of the ASEAN Universities Sports Council, Prof. Madya Datuk Dr Haji Kasim Haji Md Mansur, deans, officials and athletes from the 16 contingents.

In his speech Prof. Dr Khairuddin said the MASUM Games provided the best opportunity for talented student athletes to showcase their abilities besides forging closer rapport with fellow students and lecturers from other universities.

"This one-week Games is also the springboard for talented athletes to pursue their sporting career to national and international levels," he said.

The second phase of the MASUM Games will be held at Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), in Johor Bahru in July.