

DATUK Hj Fadillah Yusuf with Datuk Talib Zulpilip, DUBS President Datu Hj Abg Helmi Ikhwan and others jointly cutting the 20th DUBS Delegate Conference cake. PHOTO: RAMIDI SUBARI

## Research grants available to help spur innovations

BY GOH PEI PEI

kuching: Sarawakians have the potential and talent to create innovative products and services and those eligible can apply for research grants from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), according to Deputy Minister Datuk Fadillah Yusoff. He said an allocation of RM3 million had been made for such grants which need not be

repaid by eligible applicants.

"Currently, most of those who apply for such grants are researchers from the public and private higher education institutions such as Swimburne University and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)," he said, giving an example of one research activity on the production of sugar from sago.

Fadillah was speaking at the opening of the 20th Sarawak

Bumiputera Entrepreneurs Chamber (DUBS) annual dinner held at Merdeka Palace Hotel here on Tuesday evening.

Also present was DUBS President Datu Abang Helmi Ikhwan.

"Opportunity is still available for those who want to apply for the grant until the end of this year," he said.

He also said DUBS would be ever ready to give support to

help innovators, including the marketing of their products and services.

Meanwhile, he also announced that the government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, will organise the "MiniMaha 2012" programme in Taman Sukma Ria on November 16. He said the programme was designed to provide information to the people in Sarawak on how to apply for these grants.