

Researchers, industry need to strike right chord – Fadillah

BY HARUN JAU

KOTA SAMARAHAN: The linkages between researchers and industry still have much to be desired as they have yet to strike a positive chord of collaboration.

Although there are a few exceptions, on the whole the communication gap is still very revealing.

Furthermore, researchers have to emphasise more on the Research and Development (R&D) that is relevant to the industry, and the industry has to invest in such kind of R&D.

In many situations, R&D findings need further customisation before they could be used directly by the industry and consumers respectively.

Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Haji Fadillah Haji Yusuf said this in his speech at the official opening of

the First International Conference on Design and Innovation 2012 held at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) here yesterday.

As the Deputy Minister was unable to attend the function, the text of his speech was read by Professor Datuk Dr Ahmad Haji Zainuddin, the President of Malaysia Design Council.

Fadillah said Malaysia has set its sights on becoming a high-income, innovation-led and knowledge-based economy through the various transformation programmes set out by the government.

However, in order to accomplish these aspirations, the role of design and innovation in contributing to the national economic growth had become increasingly relevant and critical.

"In this regard, the government is committed to pursue the innovation agenda and has declared

this year as 'The Year of Science and National Innovation among Malaysians in pursuit of achieving the high-income economy as we aspire to become a developed nation by 2020," he said.

Fadillah added that the New Economic Model (NEM) also leverages on innovation to quantum-leap our economy to the next level.

Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE), he pointed, is an important development plan involving the development of energy as a basis for diversifying the state's industrial growth.

"Therefore, we hope that Unimas as well as all the participants at this conference can take the opportunity to contribute towards this big project.

"SCORE needs more workers in various fields, including in design and innovation," he said.



PROFESSOR Dr Ahmad Zainuddin (right) officiates at the conference as Professor Dr Khairuddin (second right) and Professor Dr Khairul Aidil Azlin look on.



PROFESSOR Dr Ahmad Zainuddin (left) and Professor Dr Khairuddin (second left) with the 'Wearable Sleeping Bag' at the conference.



(SEATED from left) Professor Dr Khairul Aidil, Professor Dr Ahmad Zainuddin, Professor Dr Khairuddin, Mustafa Abdul Rahman, and others, at a press conference with the Unimas inventors.