

# Unimas secures RM455,661 grant for Knowledge Transfer Programme

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**KUCHING:** Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) has secured a grant worth of RM455,661 for the Knowledge Transfer Programme (KTP) from the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) to fund its community and industry related projects in the state for a period of two years.

In a press statement released yesterday, the university said two of the grants were categorized under the community initiative while one came under the industry category.

Under the community initiative project are e-commerce capacity-building for the Penans in Long Lamai, Baram led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alvin Yeo, who is the Director of Centre of Excellence for Rural Informatics (CoERI) and a mini-hydro project for Kampung Semulong Ulu, Sri Aman which is led by Dr. Wan Azlan Wan Zainal Abidin from the Faculty of Engineering, Unimas.

Under the industry category is the development of fuel cells for vehicles to improve their fuel economy and carbon footprints which is led by the Director of Centre for Technology Transfer and Consultancy CTTC, Prof. Lau Seng and Zaiwin Kassim of Pro Auto Care Centre Sdn Bhd.

The programme was launched by the Vice Chancellor of Unimas, Prof Datuk Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid at University House, Unimas, yesterday.

According to Khairuddin, the

roles of universities have somehow been diluted by the emergence of dedicated training and research centres owned by some industrial giants and very soon, their roles will be obsolete and become irrelevant if they continue to do what they have been doing traditionally.

Hence, universities need to change and transform themselves in order to stay relevant and thus, the development of KTP is one of the changes that universities are adopting.

"It is our hope that through these three projects, we can help our communities as well as industries to gain new knowledge and improve their livelihood and competitiveness.

"We believe that the knowledge we have at the university should be shared, transferred and exchanged for the benefits of mankind," Khairuddin said.

He added that under KTP, universities were no longer the sole custodian of the knowledge.

Knowledge may be transferred from the industry or the community to the academics and vice-versa.

The KTP was officially launched by the Minister of Higher Education, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin on 26 June this year and shortly after that, Unimas established its own KTP secretariat under CTTC.

The objective of the grant is to recognise and promote the transfer of knowledge via the exchange of creative and innovative ideas,



**UNIMAS** Vice Chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid (middle front), Prof. Dr. Peter Songan (front left), Deputy VC, CTTC Director, Prof. Lau Seng (front right) with the KTP project leaders and team members.

research findings, experiences and skills between institutions of higher learning, industries, government agencies and the wider community.

"Our role as Secretariat at CTTC is to promote and encourage academia to be actively involved in

the KTP projects, assist and coordinate all KTP grant applications and to monitor the progress of projects that received KTP grant," Prof. Lau Seng, Director of CTTC said.

Realising the significance of this project, MOHE has allocated

RM17 million in the coming year's KTP's projects.

"I would encourage Unimas staff to apply for this grant, hopefully next year we will be awarded with more grants," Khairuddin added.

Also present were Deputy

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Peter Songan, President/Coordinator of the People's Association for Development and Education of Penan Sarawak, Ezra Uda and KTP Project Leaders as well as team members and guests from the industry.