

# Unimas staff praised for dynamism

on 08 April 2015.



Fatimah (right) presents Dr Balbir with the award. Also seen is Kadim. — Photo by Chimon Upon

KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) staff have been praised for their dynamism. Minister of Welfare, Women and Family Development Datuk Fatimah Abdullah said Unimas' academic and non-academic staff have worked to produce well-rounded graduates.

She said universities today are expected to provide more than just a traditional education as students need to be equipped with comprehensive skills and knowledge to enable the nation's transformation.

"In line with the era of globalisation, the education system of our country must be dynamic and progressive. I am also glad to note that our education system is one of our country's top agendas and close to the hearts of everyone," Fatimah said during the university's excellence awards yesterday.

She said the award will further fuel the desire of all staff to work harder and strengthen teamwork to meet the country's Education Blueprint. The Dalat assemblywoman also emphasised the need for university staff to be creative and innovative.

"The marketability of students is expected from any university by their parents as well as the government," she added.

A total of 149 staff received service excellence awards while another 35 received long-service awards.

Unimas vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kadim Suaidi said among Unimas' achievements last year were the Autonomous University Award from the Ministry of Education and the Fifth Tier of Excellence Award from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency.

"The Ministry of Education has also given their approval and recognition to all our 24 undergraduate programmes," he added.

Meanwhile, the Unimas Model Academic Award went to Faculty of Medicine and Health Science lecturer Prof Dr Balbir Singh, who is one of the world's leading researchers on malaria.

"I have produced 56 research papers on the topic in medical journals," said Dr Balbir, who was also presented with RM5,000.

Since the publication of the malaria research in a journal last year, the virus strain was found to be common among Southeast Asian countries except Laos.

His research has also rewritten what was previously known on the deadly virus, which claims at least one million lives globally every year.

**Source: The Borneo Post**