Unimas wins Excellent Water Industry Award

BY NG KIANG CHEW

KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) is the winner of this year’s Pehin Sri Excellent Water Industry Award. The award was presented to a representative of the university by Sarawak Ministry of Development, Environment, Climate Change and Fisheries Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan during the opening of ‘Borneo Water and Wastewater Engineering and Developing 2012’ at Pullman Hotel here yesterday.

The award is to honour industrial organisations, universities and research institutions for excellent innovative products, service or solution for sustainable water management.

Meanwhile, the nation’s biggest confluence of water utilities yesterday was a three-day event which saw water utilities from 13 states, 80 top executives and over 300 water professionals in attendance.

The event was declared open by Awang Tengah, who was representing Chief Minister Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud. Organised by the Malaysian Water Association and supported by the state government and Sarawak Convention Bureau, the exhibition and conference offered practitioners in the water service value chain to get to an update of the latest innovations in water technology.

It was also an opportunity to network, share knowledge and experience with other water professionals in the country as well as showcasing products and services, exploring business opportunities and deliberating on current issues faced by the water industry.

According to Malaysian Water Association (MWA) President Ahmad Zahdi Jamil, what started off as an event featured in conjunction with the International Water Association (IWA) Water Safety Conference (an event co-organised by the IWA and MWA in 2010), has now become an event on its own.

Water Engineering Technology Sdn Bhd, Ecor Tech Engineering Sdn Bhd, Anchar (M) Sdn Bhd, Sarawakian Water and Environment Development Organisation (SWEDO), Dura-Mure Sdn Bhd, Rainbow Utilities Sdn Bhd, Weida (M) Sdn Bhd, ABB Water Treatment Technology Sdn Bhd, ARTP Marketing Sdn Bhd, Group Engineers Malaysia Sdn Bhd, ABG Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Chemkimia Sdn Bhd and Solidium Sdn Bhd are among the 15 exhibitors showcasing the latest innovations in water technology during the on-going three-day event.

Apart from the exhibition, leadership forums, training sessions and a Sarawak Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN) CEO Meeting will also be held.

The SPAN CEO Meeting will gather all water supply and sewerage utilities top executives in one place and the two training programmes will run concurrently to cater to the local needs,” said Ahmad Zahdi.

“The forum sessions will provide key learning points and promote the best practices for the benefit of the water supply and wastewater management industry in East Malaysia and the over-all water management in Malaysia.”

“The leadership forum with the aim of East and West sharing best practices in line with the theme of the event, ‘Experience, Leverage, Sustain’ will discuss operational management and efficiency in water supply management.”

“The training programmes are designed to meet both water treatment plant operations and engineering designs principal in waste supply systems and targeting various groups in the industry.”

“Specific topics of common and national interest issues would generate recommendations which can be forwarded to the government for further consideration,” said Ahmad Zahdi.

On the Malaysian Water Academy, he said it would be held to make sure capacity building is enhanced among the water professionals in the country.

The academy conducts certified programmes by the National Water Services Commission and all water operators have to send their representatives to make sure they are certified in their respective areas.

“We also hope to set up a permanent presence in Kuching as soon as possible. We will start with short courses and later on, a diploma programme,” said Ahmad Zahdi, adding that to date, about 500 had graduated from the academy.