MRSM Betong duo shines at international exhibitions

BY DOREEN LING

KUCHING: Two students from the Mara Junior Science College (MRSM) Betong have made Sarawak proud by winning gold medals in two international exhibitions - the 41st International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva 2013 and the International Sustainable World Energy Engineering Environment Project Olympiad (I-SWEEEP) 2013 Awards.

Wilson Mujang Nyuwak and Sharifah Badriatul Afiqah, both 17, impressed the judges with their project `The Potential of Polyethylene Terephthalate in the Production of Brick - From Waste to Wealth' at the 41st International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland from 10 to 14 April, 2013 and the I-SWEEEP 2013 Awards held in Houston, Texas from 8 to 13 May 2013.

According to their project advisor Saffrin Mukhar Mohd Salleh, what impressed the judges the most about their project was the use of plastic waste, particularly plastic bottles, as building materials.

"This is particularly good for the environment as a lot of people throw plastic bottles away rather than recycling them. This will also lower the price of bricks as cement and plaster will not be needed," he said.

He said the research on the project was conducted with the cooperation of Universiti Sarawak Malaysia (Unimas) which had good facilities to come up with the relevant data.

Meanwhile, Sharifah Badriatul said that they would work hard to contribute to the science industry.

Mujang, on the other hand, hoped that their success would inspire other Sarawakians, especially youths.

"We hope that the rest of the world can see what we Sarawakians can do," he said to the media on arrival at the Kuching International Airport (KIA) here yesterday.