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Varsity's impressive presence at British Invention Show

KOTA SAMARAHAN: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) continues to mark its strong presence in research exposition by winning 11 gold medals and five special awards at the British Invention Show (BIS) 2012, held in London, from 24-27 October.

The event, participated by 20 countries, was organised by the British Inventors Society (BIS). It assembled inventions from leading inventors and innovators, academics, research institutions and entrepreneurs who share a common belief that invention is the vital spark that drives the world's technology and new orders of wealth creation.

UNIMAS, led by Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid, showcased eleven inventions at the BIS 2012 and attained five special awards.

A project entitled 'Wearable Sleeping Bag' led by Miss Norhayati Suleiman won a Diamond Award, one Double Gold, and the Romania Diploma Certificate Award.

Two other Double Gold Awards were won by projects led by Dr Edmund Ng Giap Weng and Associate Professor Dr Nazlina Shaari through a research entitled 'Mobile ARUT Android Browser Version 1.0' and 'Eco-Modarnt :

Utilizing Sago Effluent for Natural Dye Process'.

In addition to that, the UNIMAS inventions that won gold awards were 'Bio Bamboo Car Accessories' led by Professor Dr Khairul Aidil Azlin Abdul Rahman, 'i-Bamboo Veneer' led by Professor Khairul Aidil Azlin Abdul Rahman, 'Eco- Modarnt: Utilizing Sago Effluent for Natural Dye Process' led by Associate Professor Dr Nazlina Shaari, 'Fire Resistant Sound Absorbing Sago Panel' led by Associate Professor Dr. Zainab Ngaini, 'Silcat : Biocatalyst for Biodiesel' led by Associate Professor Dr Za inab Nga ini , 'Mobile Augmented Reality Solat System' led by Dr. Edmund Ng Giap Weng, and 'Mobile ARUT Android Browser Version 1.0' led by Dr.

Edmund Ng Giap Weng.

The others are 'TourScape: An Integrated Approach to Manage Tourism Destinations' led by Associate Professor Dr. Lo May Chiun, 'Just add Water-Chemical Assay Kit' led by Dr. Azham

Zulkharnain, 'Wearable Sleeping Bag' led by Norhayati Suleiman; and 'ENAICMS- Counselling Management System' led by Encik Mohd Razali Othman.

Speaking at a media conference after the opening ceremony of the 1st International Conference on Design and Innovation 2012 (1st ICDI 2012) at Detar Putra, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak here yesterday, Professor Datuk Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid said this outstanding achievement has given UNIMAS researchers more encouragement and motivation to move forward with their research endeavours.

"It is the university's hope that these inventions would lead to the possibility of commercialisation that will generate revenue for the university and placed UNIMAS at the upper echelon of Malaysian institution of higher learning," he said.

According to Professor Datuk Dr Khairuddin, UNIMAS has a very stringent system of assessment and evaluation of its products.

He said during the show in London many people from the industry were interested in the products, especially the 'Wearable Sleeping Bag' and asking how to commercialise the product.

"So the next step is to package and commercialise the products.

We will make our own packaging, work in partnership with the industries. We will also need to file for patent to protect our intellect properties," he said.

He added that UNIMAS does not mind going international to market the products, but they have to come up with some kind of mechanism to do it and there must also be takers for the products.

"The 'Wearable Sleeping Bag' is ready to go for commercialisation immediately. However, we don't have a factory so we need to look for a partner to mass produce it," he said, while hoping that this could be achieved by as early as next year.

According to Mustafa Abdul Rahman, the Director of UNIMAS Research and Innovation Management Centre, there were 35 judges from all the Industries at the exhibition in London and their focus was on the potential for commercialisation of the products and how it could benefit humankind.

President of Malaysia Design Council, Professor Datuk Dr Ahmad Haji Zainuddin said Malaysia has the brains to come up with innovative and creative products but it has to come up with good mechanism to market the products.

"Malaysia is not lacking in talents.

There are more than 4,000 graduates every year but the main problem is that there are not many takers. We still have a long way to go," he said.

Professor Datuk Ahmad Haji Zainuddin was representing Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Datuk Haji Fadillah Yusoff at the conference yesterday.

Source : Sarawak Tribune