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A MOMENT TO REMEMBER: Dr Wan Hashim (sitting second left), Jamil (centre) and Mohd Fadzil (sitting fourth left) and others posed for a photo call with the award recipients.

KUCHING: Eight engineering students of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) received the 'Zecon Excellence Awards 2012' yesterday.

The award forms part of Zecon Berhad's corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes to recognise and encourage top achievers from the university's Faculty of Engineering.

The vice president of Finance of Zecon Berhad, Jamil Jamaludin, presented the awards in a ceremony witnessed by Unimas deputy vice chancellor of Student Affairs and Alumni Professor Mohd Fadzil Abdul Rahman and dean of Faculty of Engineering Professor Dr Wan Hashim Wan Ibrahim.

The ceremony marked 11 years of collaboration between Unimas Faculty of Engineering and Zecon Berhad that began in 2002.

The recipients were Firdaus Abdol Kalary and Zait Aivian Yue Yacub from the Civil Engineering faculty, Ahmad Wazeer Johari and Hazel Maybelline Johan from Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering faculty, Nurliyana Hussaini and Nurul Fatin Mohammad Zahir from Electronic and

Telecommunication Engineering faculty and Esther Belinda Tening and Hillare Francis from the Electronic and Computer Engineering faculty.

They had excelled in both academic and co-curriculum activities throughout their studies at the university.

Before the award presentation, Mohd Fadzil told the recipients to continue to work hard and be prepared to face challenges in their future careers.

"It does not matter which university you come from, the knowledge you gain is the same. It is the effort, determination and capability as well as your work performance that determine your success in your careers," he said.

Reminding them that society had high regards for engineers, he advised them to perform their duties responsibly and use the knowledge and skills they had acquired.

Jamil, who also spoke, said fresh graduates should be able to accept that their first few years of working would be a test of what they had learnt and a time to gain experience.

He said fresh graduates cannot be too choosy about jobs and demand high salaries just because they have a degree.

"It is normal that you cannot be too demanding when you do not have the working experience yet," he said.

He also said Zecon Berhad had been maintaining its support for academic achievement by offering scholarships to students from Unimas and other local universities, which should serve as motivation to undergraduate students to do well in their studies.

Source: **The Borneo Post**