

Tajuk: **Varsity bags 11 gold medals, five special awards at BIS**

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KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) has bagged 11 gold medals and five special awards at the British Invention Show 2012 (BIS).

The university's bright minds, who were led by vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid, were up against inventors and innovators from some 20 countries in London, England, from Oct 24 to 27.

They showcased 11 inventions and virtually won a prize for each of them.

The gold award winners were "Bio Bamboo Car Accessories" and "i-Bamboo Veneer" led by Prof Dr Khairul Aidil Azlin Abdul Rahman; "Eco-Modarnt: Utilising sago effluent for natural dye process" led by Assoc Prof Dr Nazlina Shaari; "Fire resistant sound absorbing sago panel" and "Silcat: Biocatalyst for biodiesel" led by Assoc Prof Dr Zainab Ngaini; "Mobile augmented reality solar system" and "Mobile ARUT Android browser version 1.0" led by Dr Edmund Ng; "TourScape: An integrated sys-

tematic approach to manage tourism destinations" led by Assoc Prof Dr Lo May Chiun; "Just add water – Chemical assay kit" led by Dr Azham Zulkarnain; "Wearable sleeping bag" by Norhayati Suleiman, and "ENAICMS – Counselling management system" led by Mohd Razali Othman.

The special award winners were Norhayati who won a Diamond Award, Double Gold and the Romania Diploma Certificate Award for her sleeping bag; and Ng and Nazlina who each won Double Gold.

A statement yesterday said the outstanding achievement had given Unimas researchers greater 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 place Unimas at the upper echelon of Malaysian institutions of higher learning."

Meanwhile, the "1st International Conference on Design and Innovation 2012" will be held at Unimas today and tomorrow. Themed "Sustainable Ground", it is organised by the university's Institute of Design and Innovation.

The conference aims to support research and create a platform for students, academics and practitioners to develop network and collaborations in the areas of design and innovation.

At the same time, it seeks to enhance field design and innovation, create differentiation and new ideas and practical solutions that could help improve efficiency in both product and services.

Its theme reflects the current need of sustaining the global environment from further depletion of its natural resources and preserve the environment through green technology and waste management activities that could promote cost-saving and healthy living.