

CENDEKIA BITARA AWARD RECOGNIZES & REWARDS EXCELLENT LECTURERS, RESEARCHERS



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) recently held its annual Cendekia Bitara 2011 Award Night – with the theme “Metamorphosis” – to reflect the decade-long journey UMP undertook to transform the university into an excellent and creative engineering and technology academic higher institution, in support of the larger national clarion call to boost the quality of Malaysia’s tertiary education.

UMP Chancellor, His Royal Highness (HRH) the Crown Prince of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Al-Haj Ibnu Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta’in Billah officiated the event held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kuantan on April 28, 2012.

Also present that night were the chairman of the university’s board of directors Dato’ Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib and board member Dato’ Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman.

Twenty four winners – including three in the category of teaching

excellence (APC) – received the Cendekia Bitara awards from HRH Tengku Abdullah.

In his address, the Crown Prince proudly acknowledged the continued commitment by the university’s management to hold the event annually as a dedicated manifesto to encourage the acculturation of research, academic publications and innovations as the very backbone of UMP.

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“Tonight’s award presentation, as an appropriate avenue to announce the excellent achievements made by UMP in research, academic publications and innovations, should be publicly highlighted to endear it to be the driving factor for students to opt

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UMP as their first choice university in pursuing tertiary education in the fields of engineering and technology,” emphasized Tengku Abdullah at the opening of the Cendekia Bitara Award Night ceremony.

The Crown Prince also recommended that the deciding criteria in awarding the winning research, academic publications and innovative activities should take into account their feasible implementation and benefits to the communities at large.



Meanwhile, UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim, highlighted that in comparison to 2010, the university saw 13.5% increase in the number of research activities conducted in 2011, totaling some 215 projects with grants worth RM9.95 million.

“Overall, the country also saw a rising number of impactful publications and journals. At UMP, the figure surged 26% from 103 in 2010 to 130 last year,” the Vice-Chancellor added.

With such significant rise, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing said the university has taken into cognizance the importance of securing intellectual property rights, and has submitted applications for 57 patents, six copyrights, four trademarks and one industrial design to be accredited to UMP for its R&D projects and output.

Out of these projects, he said, five were successful contracts worth RM 1.54 million carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), Pahang State Agriculture & Industry Development Board (LKPP), SIRIM Bhd, Indah Water Konsortium Bhd and Universiti Kuala Lumpur.

Completing and complementing the university’s R&D ecosystem, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted that UMP now has 148 PhD academic staff and 505 doctoral postgraduates to carry out activities of research, academic publications and innovations.

At the Cendekia Bitara award presentation that night, seven winners – from the faculties of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (FKEE) and Chemical Engineering & Natural Resources (FKKSA) – received their accolades in the field of research: Dr Rizalman Mamat, Nor Maniha Abdul Ghani and Associate Professor Dr Ahmed N Abdalla from FKEE; and Dr Iqbal Ahmed, Associate Professor Dr Hayder A Abdul Bari, Dr Arun Gupta and Associate Professor Dr Abdurahman Hamid Nour from FKKSA.

All seven recipients took home certificates of appreciation and cash prizes worth RM5,000 and RM3,000 for international and domestic



recognitions, respectively.

Meanwhile, among 14 others who received their Cendekia Bitara’s publication in impact journal categorical awards include Associate Professor Dr. Zularisam Abdul Wahid from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA) for his research on water; Dr Syed Mohd Saufi Tuan Chik (FKKSA) for his research entitled “Journal of Chromatography A”; and Professor Dr Jose Rajan from the Faculty of Science & Industry Technology.

This year, UMP also presented a new award category – APC – in appreciation of outstanding academic staff and their excellent teaching and learning methods, applying the innovative and creative approaches to produce holistic and competitive human capital resources.

The three winners in their respective engineering, applied science and applied social science faculties were Associate Professor Dr Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim from FKKSA (for engineering); Aziman Abdullah from the Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKPP – applied science); and Dr Nik Aloesnita Nik Mohd Alwi from the Centre for Modern Languages & Human Science (PBMSK – applied social science). Each of the winners received a certificate of appreciation and RM5,000 cash prize.

Three other lecturers also received tokens of appreciation – they were Hazizulden Abdul Aziz (FKEE); Wan Muhammad Syahrir Wan Hussin (FSKPP); Nor Ashikin



Abdul Aziz (PBMSK); Luqman Hakim Ahmad Shah from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering; and Lee Chia Kuang from the Faculty of Technology.

According to Professor Dato’ Dr Daing, he hoped the APC initiative will encourage UMP academicians to excel further and readily support the university’s efforts in academic quality enhancement – which forms part of the University Key Result Areas (UKRA).

Other components of the UKRA, which will help propel UMP into a world class technology university, include academic programme empowerment, infrastructure, quality student intake and academic staff recruitment, said the Vice-Chancellor.

“In addition, the APC category has been identified to be the platform from which UMP will nominate qualified teaching staff to partake in the National Academic Award (AAN), in accordance to the criteria and standards set by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE),” concluded Professor Dato’ Dr Daing.