



MALAYSIA SCIENCE ACADEMY VISITED UMP

A 20 member delegation from the Malaysia Science Academy (MSC) and academicians from local and abroad visited Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) to hold discussion and share expertise in research findings on May 8, 2012.

They also toured the university's laboratory facilities.

The visit was held on the sidelines of the delegates' trip to Lynas Advanced Material Plant in Gebeng, Kuantan and the International Rare Earth Symposium organised by ASM in Kuala Lumpur recently.

The delegate members comprised a group of independent think tank in science and technology and members of the National Professors Council (NPC) - a body

of more than 1,500 from public and private universities.

They were involved in a comprehensive study on rare earth issues as well as its potentials that could contribute to the country's economy.

Among those present were ASM Vice-President ASM, Datuk Ir Ahmad Zaidee Laidin who is also UMP visiting professor and Alastair S Neill, a rare earth expert from Canada and Dacha Strategic Metals Vice Executive President.

Others included Peking University's Chemical Material and Rare Earth Application Laboratory Director, Professor Chun-Hua Yan, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)'s Safety Management Department Analytical Laboratory Head, Christoph Wilhelm from



Germany and Jack Lifton, co-founder of Technology Metals Research LLC from the US.

The delegate members were received by UMP's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz and Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Profesor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin.

According to Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham, the visit provided the opportunity for UMP to share knowledge in findings on rare earth study with the foreign experts.

Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham, who has been appointed to sit in ASM Rare Earth Committee and Chairman of UMP Rare Earth Research Work Committee, said

the university had many researchers conducting studies relating to rare earth.

"The visit also gives the opportunity to UMP to hold discussion on working together with KIT and Peking University in academic and research areas," he said after presenting a briefing on UMP to the delegation at the banquet hall, UMP Chancellery.

Dean of Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology, Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd. Yusoff said findings on rare earth study carried out by her and Professor Jose Rajan, together with Trivandrum College University (India) dan Noritake Company (Japan), managed to produce new complex dielectric compound in nanocrystal form.

She said this could be exploited

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in electronic material application for consumer daily usage which would be more environmental-friendly.

She also said the compound had potentials for microwave ceramics application sample with low dielectric loss that would be able to react by making full use of the rare earth elements in thulium.

The research finding made two years ago was published in the Journal of Alloys and Compounds this year.

Dato' Dr. Daing said he hoped the visit would be a beneficial one, to be followed by creating a cooperation networking where expertise could be shared with foreign experts.

"This, in turn, could further encourage an active research culture in UMP," he added.