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SPORTS ENGINEERING TO PUSH FORWARD SPORTS INDUSTRY IN MALAYSIA



Knowledge in Science and Mathematics can help solve technical application problems in sports activities. In fact, the knowledge that is known as sports engineering is able to build up sports industry in Malaysia.

According to Professor Dr. Zahari Taha of Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FKM), designing and producing sports equipment required detailed researches in order to meet the needs and satisfaction of users as well as athletes for these would influence the performance.

"Sports engineering involves designing of sports equipment, constructing facilities for sports activities, analysis of the athlete's performance and setting standards and specifications relating to safety aspects.

"Research involves big capital investment as it requires services of an expert engineer in a specified area to produce competitive sports equipment," he said when delivering a public lecture titled 'Engineering the Athlete: The Road to Rio'.

The lecture was organised by UMP, together with Malaysia Science Academy (MSA) at the faculty in UMP Pekan on

October 31, 2012.

He said optimising the design of sports equipment could be achieved based on the design and latest raw material in the market as well as utilising advanced manufacturing processes.

"As for sports science, it identifies the physical aspect of an athlete while sports engineering studies the interaction between an athlete and the facilities as well as the environment.

"For example, cycling is one of the examples that has benefitted from sports engineering," he said.

He added that the British team had worked together with Southampton University during the Olympics Games in Beijing and had managed to improve the aerodynamism of the cyclists who displayed excellent performance.

Professor Dr. Zahari also discussed about the need for grants and potential researches for these would help to develop sports industry in Malaysia.

He also shared his expertise on sports engineering which could possibly bring home Malaysia's first Olympics gold medal