4 UNDERGRADUATES GARNERED AWARDS IN MACAU

Four Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduates created waves at the international level when they won two gold medals, two silver medals and three special awards at the Macau International Innovation and Invention Expo 2013.

It was held at Macau Fishman's Wharf and Exhibition Centre, China on June 30, 2013.

Some 400 entries were submitted and among the countries that took part were Croatia, Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia.

Muhammad Noor Azreen Mohd Khairu from the Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) won a gold medal for his project, titled "Recycling of Monoethanolamine (MEA) Wastewater Using Bio Adsorbents Treatment System (From Waste to Wealth)".

The work also won him the Hong Kong Invention Associations' Special Award.

The research was about treating liquid chemical waste, Monoethanolamine (MEA), which was a medium to absorb carbon dioxide (CO_2) from raw gas in a gas processing plant.

"The research discovered the best way to treat MEA and to effectively remove carbon dioxide. The natural absorbent agent used is chitosan, rice husk, banana skin and sugar cane pulp," he said.

He hoped that the finding would help solve problems at gas processing plants in related industries.

The research was also supported by Petronas Gas Processing Plant in Kerteh.

Also equally elated about winning a gold medal was Nurul Asyikin Mohd Azam from the Faculty of Science and Industrial Technology (FSTI). She also won a special award from the World Invention Intellectual Property Associations (Macau) with her work, "EBN Pheromone Booster."

Her winning work centred on creating natural aroma to attract swiftlets to fly to nests that had been prepared so as to increase yield of bird nests for commercial purposes.

The silver medallists were Hazim Anas Mohamad from Faculty of Computer System & Software Engineering (FSKKP) and Mohd Syaifulsyam Abdullah from Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA).

Hazim Anas also received a special award from the Korea Invention Associations for his project titled, "Smart Attendance Management System", a system that would screen students' attendance.

Mohd Syaifulsyam's work was "MangiferaIndica or Odorata Leaves Waste for Low Cost Adsorbent."

The research was about using activated mango leaf absorbent in solving problems relating to treating industrial wastewater that contained heavy metals. It could help reduce costs and preserve environment.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said, he was proud with their achievements and hoped it would help spur other undergraduates to come up with research works that could be benefitted and shared with the public.

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