COMMUNITISING TECHNOLOGY

UMP award shows R&D focus success

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University Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) success in securing the National Innovation Award for Product Category at the 2017 National Innovation and Creative Economy Expo (Nice) on Friday is testament to the university's impact in research and development (R&D).

This is courtesy of its product, Pispoptera, the first-ever environmentally-friendly technology that combats termite infestations.

Pispoptera is commercialised by UMP Ecopest Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of UMP, which also commercialised the insecticide product, PestKilla.

UMP Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the university was committed to realising its role and social responsibility in a manner consistent with its "Communitising Technology" agenda.

He said this was based on implementation of the 2016-2020 UMP Strategic Plan to develop UMP's potential and competitiveness by taking knowledge and technology to society.

"The success will encourage UMP denizens to continue to support and strengthen technology commercialisation at the university by creating products and technology with the potential to benefit communities."

For example, through Pispoptera, people can tackle the problem of unmanaged residual waste, and at the same time, reap financial returns.

"The problem of discarded empty oil palm fruit bunches has been turned into an 'advantage' via Pispoptera, which transforms the discarded material into a high-value anti-termite product."

To boost the R&D ecosystem that communitises technology, UMP has introduced the UMP-Community Technology Solution Platform Grant, which uses a technological approach to provide solutions to communal and industrial needs.

The success of UMP Ecopest and UMP Keraglow Sdn Bhd, another UMP subsidiary, had led to these companies being picked to receive the University Start-Up Recognition Award through the QB3 Train-the-Trainer programme, courtesy of the Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation.

The university was awarded six gold, two silver, and seven bronze medals in the International Conference and Exposition on Inventions by Institutions of Higher Learning in Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, recently. PIC BY NAUFAL SAMSUDIN