Impactful research driving UMP forward

PEKAN

High impact research and innovation remains a priority at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) as the Higher Education Institution continues to win accolades both in Malaysia and abroad.

A recent feat was when the environmental engineering discipline bagged the commercial product name of "Piso Ant" at the 2017 National Invention Award (NIA) product category at the National Innovation and Creative Economy Expo 2017.

UMP’s vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr. Dauding Nasir Ibrahim and UMP EcoAsia Sdn Bhd (a subsidiary of UMP) were responsible in commercialising the product, which helped to address termite threats.

"We believe our product has direct implications on termite control measures and would allow for a greener and more sustainable way of dealing with this problem," Dauding said.

"Termite treatments are mostly chemical and expose people to toxic fumes. Our product is a safer and more environmentally friendly option, and it’s a viable alternative to traditional termite control methods."

UMP is committed to continue focusing on products developed by the university, which has the potential to be commercialised and benefit the community, including C-Brick (a green technology-based brick) and Dialclean (an environmentally friendly cleaning agent requiring diazepine).

"UMP’s Industrial Technology and Designing Creative Space at the New Campus Centre of the Faculty campus is where technology-based research is carried out before it enters the market. Its research centre serves as a platform for stakeholders to work closely in developing industry-based products," Dauding said, adding that the New Campus Centre is an important component in strengthening commercialisation activities at UMP.

He said that Citius and SciVal popular rating tools are used in the impact of research for new knowledge and ranked UMP in first place in terms of quality of research among the higher learning institutions in Malaysia, on Aug 9.

"The quality of research is measured from the average citations a paper receives when weighted over the entire research area, a term referred to as the normalised citation impact (NCI). The CNI of UMP is 1.26, which means that UMP’s research papers are 26 percent more impactful than the world average.

"These databases reported a steady growth of UMP publications and phenomenal growth in citations. The higher the number of citations, the more influential the research," he said.

Dauding said the Malaysian Research Assessment (MPAR) scheme ranked UMP “A” in a four-star university category last year following its humble beginnings as a two-star university in 2010.

The university also received five-star ratings under the MPAR 2017.

"The CiTeS and Scival databases consistently report that UMP has been recognized in international journals and impactful," he added.

"We will first send our students to conduct an on-site visit to the respective premises to identify what has to be done before the university identifies the areas which require improvements. Our students will then be involved in planning some of the minor issues including cleaning and painting, while contractors will be hired to do the major works," he said, adding that RM16.5 million was set aside for the community under programme here.

"The programme was designed to help create jobs for several carpenters and plumbers and we hope to link them up with contractors so they can secure regular work. The aim is to transform the identity of Kuala Pahang into an attractive destination and improve the livelihood of the people," he said.

On its graduates’ employability, Dauding said UMP has been displaying encouraging progress and is now ranked within the top 500 best universities among 11,000 universities in Asia.

"According to the QS World University Rankings for the year 2018, UMP is ranked in between the top 281-290 places among the top 2,400 selected universities in Asia and this sends a message that the university has a lot of prospects in store for the future.

"My hope is that UMP remains as a part of the extraordinary league, and although we do not set the limits, we will always remain competitive and reputable, consistently being among the listed universities," Dauding said.

"When we build a name for ourselves, we will be among the listed universities and preferred ones. UMP’s resources are limited and we need to ensure that we attract the best minds among the best institutions and provide them with an excellent learning environment so they can develop the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the future.

"We want to ensure that our students are competitive when they enter the job market and are prepared to take on challenges. We want them to be adaptable and innovative, and to be prepared to face new challenges.

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