

## CONVOCATION CEREMONY

اوتونوسيتك مايسيا افامه

18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Sports Complex Hak, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Kuantan, Pahang Darul Makmur

# Impactful research driving UMP forward

## PEKAN

HIGH impact research and innovation remains as Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) strength as the higher learning institution continues to win accolades both in Malaysia and abroad.

A recent feat was when the environmentally-friendly termitic bait, under the commercial product name of Pispotera, won the 2017 National Innovation Award (NIA) product category at the National Innovation and Creative Economy Expo 2017.

UMP's vice-chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said UMP's Ecopest Sdn Bhd (a subsidiary of UMP), was responsible in commercialising the product, which helps to tackle termites.

He said the product also received commercial funding facilities through Commercialisation of Research & Development Fund (CRDF) provided by Malaysian Technology Development Corporation Sdn Bhd.

"UMP is committed to continue focusing on products developed by the university, which has the potential to be commercialised and benefit the community, including G-Brick (Green technology-based brick) and DiaClean (Eco-friendly and benefiting patients requiring dialysis).

UMP's Industrial Technology and Engineering Creativity Space or NewClaus Centre at the Pekan 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," he said, adding that the NewClaus Centre is an important component in strengthening commercialisation activities in UMP.

He said that iNCites and SciVal - popular databases used to assess the impact of research for new knowledge - ranked UMP in first place in terms of quality of research among the higher learning institutions in Malaysia, on Aug 7.

"The quality of research is measured from the average citations a paper receives when weighted over the entire research areas, a term referred to as category normalised citation impact (CNCI). The CNCI of UMP is 1.26, which means that UMP's research papers are 26 per cent more impactful than the world average.

"Both databases reported a steady growth of UMP's publications and phenomenal growth in citations. The higher the number of citations, the more influential the paper is," he said.

Dating said the Malaysian Research Assessment (MyRA) scheme ranked UMP to be a four star university last year following its humble beginnings as a two star university in 2010.

The university also received a five star rating under SETARA 2017.

"The iNCites and SciVal databases consistently report that UMP has been research intensive and impactful, and is



(From left) Researchers Yong Ying Mei, Dr Abdulrahman A. Alsewari, Professor Dr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman, Norazlin Hassan and Harraz Irfan Nazaruddin during a ceremony to celebrate UMP's success at the British Invention Show 2017.



UMP Vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim, Peramu Jaya assemblyman, Datuk Seri Sh Puzi Shi Ali with volunteers from the UMP facelift programme.

on the way up the ranks. UMP's Mechanical Engineering subject discipline is placed in the 251-300 range in Asia.

"On par with its research, UMP has been successful in leveraging its research into practically useful products in the market, including Pispotera and PastKilla. We set the goals through viable strategies and our academicians are passionate enough to achieve them, which is the secret behind our success," he said.

Dating said last year, UMP commercialised three new products and one project received funds amounting to RM500,000 for commercialisation while up to October this year, seven new products have been commercialised and seven projects received funds amounting to RM2.5 million.

Speaking on university community projects namely Facelift UMP, Dating said UMP is actively involved in changing the once sleepy fishing village in Kuala

Pahang here into a vibrant and favourite destination among sea-food lovers.

He said as UMP is surrounded by villages, the university felt that it had a role to play in ensuring its neighbours were not sidelined and instead be part of the facelift to prosper along with the university.

Dating said as a start, UMP Anchored by the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Earth Resources, has identified more than 40 homes in the vicinity which will undergo refurbishment works, which includes cleaning, painting and repairing.

"Some of the premises were completely torn down and the occupants were temporarily relocated elsewhere while their new units were being completed. Besides the support from students, UMP worked closely with the district and land office as well as other agencies to ensure that works would be smoothly completed.

"We will first send our students to conduct an audit on the respective premise to identify what has to be done before the university identifies the areas which require improvements. Our students will be involved in completing some of the minor tasks including cleaning and painting, while contractors will be hired to do the major jobs," he said, adding that RM1 million was set aside for the community university programme here.

Dating stressed that besides the physical transformation on the premises, the programme is also aimed at ensuring mindset shifts, where the villagers were told about the importance of keeping their homes tidy and to get rid of unkept items.

"We want to ensure the homes offer a conducive environment for children to study. Besides living in comfortable homes, we want the villagers to move along with the times and to adapt to the changes.

"The programme has helped to create jobs for several carpenters living here and we hope to link them up with contractors so they can soon secure regular jobs. The effort is to transform the identity of Kuala Pahang to achieve the facelift objective to make the village a favourite tourist destination and improve the livelihood of the people," he said.

On its graduates' marketability, Dating said UMP set an outstanding benchmark last year when 95 per cent of its students were able to secure jobs compared to the 85 per cent target set by the Higher Education Ministry.

He hopes UMP will maintain the remarkable record this year and go on to achieve 96 per cent in graduates' employability.

Despite being a young 15-year-old university, he said UMP has been displaying encouraging progress and is now ranked within the top 300 best universities among 11,700 universities in Asia.

"According to the QS World Ranking of Universities for the year 2018, UMP is ranked in a range between 281 and 290 which places us among the top 2.4 per cent bracket 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 top the league we will always remain competitive and reputable, consistently being among the listed universities and the preferred ones. When we build a name for ourselves, then we will be among the listed universities and preferred ones.

"UMP still has lots of work to do and we need to strive if we want to attract the best firms from abroad to sponsor their students to further their studies here," he said, adding that UMP should always remain hungry to achieve more success on both the domestic and global front.