

# 'Help UMP students master STEM'

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**KUANTAN:** Regent of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah has urged Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) to take the lead in developing rural students' interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Tengku Abdullah, who is also UMP chancellor, said the university would need to intensify its efforts through projects and initiatives in line with UMP's Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and slogan of "Socialising Technology".

He said UMP had to expand its cooperation with various quarters — locally or abroad — together with initiatives from various agencies, including the East Coast Economic Region Development Council, Pahang Islamic Religious and Malay Customs Councils, private sector and the state government.

He said emphasis must also be given to ensure that students from rural areas mastered the English language.

He said empowering STEM and English language would require strategic interaction between UMP and the state Education Department, especially in identifying schools that needed the university's assistance and other added values in their lessons.



*Regent of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah presenting an award to Nurul Hazlina Noordin (right) at Universiti Malaysia Pahang's Cendekia Bitara and Academic Excellence Award ceremony in Kuantan on Friday. PIC BY MUHAMMAD ASYRAF SAWAL*

"I was informed that UMP has started work on the Kuala Pahang Facelift 2.0 initiative, which will focus on self-motivation, knowledge, STEM and English language,

through the participation of lecturers and undergraduates.

"I have given my consent for the establishment of Kuala Pahang House, a facility which is being de-

veloped by UMP in Kampung Kuala Pahang, as a one-stop centre for youth in Kampung Kuala Pahang," he said at UMP's Cendekia Bitara and Academic Excellence Award

ceremony on Friday night.

He described the Cendekia Bitara programme, which began in 2008, as a platform to honour the outstanding achievements by staff members and researchers at UMP, who have boosted UMP's performance in terms of quality, research fields, innovation, commercialisation, publication and creativity.

Present were UMP board of directors chairman Datuk Seri Ibrahim Ahmad and UMP Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Seri Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim.

At the ceremony, 67 recipients received awards for various categories, including research products, quality and creativity, leadership and books.

Daing Nasir said based on Scopus (the world's largest abstract and citation database), 10,566 publications were produced by UMP lecturers last year, a 28 per cent increase in citations compared with 7,532 published the year before.

"Studies by Incite database showed 64 per cent of the research articles produced by UMP are listed as 'hot papers', which proved the capability of our researchers in producing high-impact work."