

# UMP CLINCHED 9 MEDALS AT BIOMALAYSIA 2011

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) continued to record successful achievements by garnering a gold medal, a silver medal and seven bronze medals at the BioMalaysia 2011 and Pacific RIM Summit on Industry and BioEnergy 2011 in Kuala Lumpur recently. The event was officially opened by Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre on November 21, 2011.

Dr Arun Gupta of Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Natural Resources (FKKSA) won a gold medal for work titled, "Formulation of Anti Aging Cream With UV Protection From Chicken Feathers" while Dr Jolius Gimbun, also from FKKSA, took home the silver medal for "Production of Second Generation Biodiesel From Rubber Seed Oil Using Cement Clinker Derived Catalyst."

UMP, which submitted 11 research projects, was proud when its exhibition lot was announced at the best display for visitor-friendly booth category.

The seven works awarded with bronze medals were "Bioremediation of Silver Nano Particles from Hazardous Wastes" by Dr Essam Abdellat of Makky from Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology (FSTI), "Biolabisia – A Standardised Plant Extract For Weight Management" by Prof Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff from FSTI and "Gaharu Aromaster Kit" by Dr Saiful Nizam Tajuddin, also from FSTI.

Others were Associate Professor Dr. Ghazi Faisal Najmuldeen from FKKSA with "Castor Oil - The Future Industrial Oil For Malaysia", Nor Maniha Abdul Ghani from Electric and Electronic Engineering Faculty (FKEE) with "Eco-cell - A Novel Vermicomposting Method for Energy Production (Waste to Wealth)", Dr Wan Mohd Faizal Wan Ishak from Centre for Environmental Research and Management (CERRM) for his work on "Biodegradation Treatment Solution" and Noor Suraya Romali from Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA) with "Application



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Dato' Sri Mohd Najib also launched the National Biomass Strategy, a new policy on increasing the country's capability in biomass and moving towards making the nation a hub for bioeconomics and biotechnology.

He said the new strategy with the theme, 'Towards Wealth in Biomass', was developed by the Malaysia Innovation Agency with cooperation from Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), other government agencies, corporate bodies and universities.

"The strategy will encourage the development of new, high value industries such as bioenergy and biochemistry that are able to create 70,000 job opportunities including 40,000 highly-skilled workers.

"By the year 2020, the strategy is expected to generate new earnings of



RM30bil in Malaysia. Biomass is products of agriculture and microorganism that can produce energy and commodity through biotechnology process.

"It is renewable energy. The strategy will spur more economic growth in rural area and will encourage new homegrown technology," he said when addressing about 1,000 audience.

He added that it was an environmental-friendly approach when emission of methane can be reduced.

"With the new strategy, the Government is clearly seen to be in the position to grab the chances. We are very excited with the prospects and very optimistic in gaining success in the field," he said.

He added that as the world's biggest palm oil exporter, Malaysia generated masses of biomass with huge potentials for high value-added applications, be it for fuel, bioplastic or raw cellulous.

With a value estimation was US\$11.14 billion in 2015, biomass is targeted to be the main contributor to agriculture sector and biotechnology industry.

The Prime Minister also announced that the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Biotech Corp and related agencies would draft a proposal to develop bioeconomics in Malaysia early next year.

The initiative is expected to complement the National Biotechnology Policy.

Also present were MOSTI deputy minister Tuan Haji Fadillah Yusoff and Biotech Corporation chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus.