

Research Success Through Innovation At UTHM

Research Management and Innovation Centre (RMIC) is one of the centers at Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM). RMIC is given the task to steer the university towards excellence in research and innovation. In line with the need to align with UTHM's mission of achieving a world-class university status by 2013 the university's top management has recently reviewed the structuring of the various university-level centres that are dedicated to coordinate the efforts of all the various faculties and departments. In view of this, RMIC has been recently restructured to solely manage research and innovation under the directorship of Prof. Dr. Mohd Zazar b. Mohd Jenu, with two deputy directors, one to oversee research and the other for innovation.

Under RM-9, UTHM has put R&D&C (Research & Development & Commercialization) as its first CSF (Critical Success Factor). RMIC plays a major role in managing research at the university as well as creating a research culture at the university. UTHM has 6 research clusters, namely: Advanced Material; Advanced Manufacturing; Environmental System; Construction & Transportation; Information & Communica-

tion Technology; Technical & Vocational Education; Technology Management and Social Science. The research done at UTHM is developed under these research clusters which are the priority research areas for research within our technical university.

There are 9 excellence centers that serve as a mechanism for developing research within the scope of the research clusters. The excellence centers are Centre for Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC), Centre for Environment, Construction and Transportation Studies (CECTUS), Research Centre for Soft Soil (RECESS), Centre of Excellence for Facilities Management (CEFM), Advanced Textile Technology Centre (ADTEC), Wireless and Radio Science Centre (WARAS), Advanced Centre for Technical and Vocational Education (ACTIVE), Software and Multimedia Centre (SMC) and Microelectronic and Nanotechnology Centre (MINTEC).

Amongst the recent success stories regarding research at UTHM, is the acquisition of research grants. The university has secured a total of 9 ScienceFund research grants under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOSTI). Additionally, one of our researchers has been successful in securing a Techno

Fund grant under MOSTI that involves utilizing two existing patents and the development of further products for commercialization with industry partners. UTHM has also secured 63 projects from the second cycle of fundamental research grant scheme (FRGS) under the Ministry of Higher Education. To encourage research culture amongst young researchers, UTHM has also committed in giving short term grants for new lecturers who have just come back from their further studies or who have just recently been recruited by UTHM. These grants of up to RM10,000 per researcher are used as seed money for the young researchers to start their research at UTHM.

UTHM also participates in exhibitions locally and internationally. Recently, UTHM researchers won 1 silver and 4 bronze medals at PECIPTA 07 (Exposition of Research and Innovations of International Institutes of Higher Learning 2007). UTHM also won 1 silver and 4 bronze medals at ITEX 07 (International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition 2007), whilst undergraduate students at UTHM have also excelled in research projects winning 2 silver and 1 bronze medal at the NIRC 07 (The National Research and Innovation Competition 2007).



Currently, UTHM has filed for nine patents for research products that have commercial value. The Intellectual Property Committee at UTHM vets applications or requests by researchers to have their research products patented and have their intellectual property protected by filing with the Malaysian Intellectual Property Organization (MyIPO).

Amongst the many programmes and events geared towards excellence in research and innovation, RMIC is planning to have Research and Innovation Fest (RI Fest) in October 2007 for the duration of a whole week. The objectives of RI Fest are to showcase the research done by researchers of UTHM and promote



ideas generated from students for future research and innovation. The main events for this fest are a research presentation competition for academic researchers and an innovative ideas competition for students.

The highlight of this fest will be a seminar and forum with renowned speakers from industry and academia. In line with RMIC's efforts at UTHM of promoting a research culture, the RI Fest also aims to give opportunities to academic researchers and students to share new findings about science, engineering, social science and management and further develop ideas for future research and innovation.