

USM, USIM bag London awards

RECOGNITION: Students win several awards at British Invention Show

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UNIVERSITI Sains Malaysia (USM) and Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) students won several international awards at an invention competition in London last week.

USM's team clinched three gold medals as well as a diamond award in the four-day British Invention Show (BIS) that ended on Saturday.

Three projects — oil palm syrup in production of toffee, a natural biodegradable solution known as Moringa Oleifera Seeds (MOS) and a car security system known as The Eyes, received the thumbs up from the show's organiser, The British Inventors Society.

The MOS project was the sole multiple winner as it also won the diamond award.

USM acting vice-chancellor Pro-

fessor Datuk Dr See Ching Mey commended the undergraduate researchers for coming out tops.

"They have done USM proud by winning at the international level," See said, adding that the university beat some 20 hopefuls from Europe and the Middle East.

The team members are Syuhairah Ahmad, Meor Muhammad Hafiz Shah Budin, Muhammad Razif Abd Razak and Ng Poh Sing.

Syuhairah said the syrup was extracted from oil palm trunk biomass to produce toffee, which contained high nutrients and was as a natural sweetener.

Meor said MOS was a cheap and non-toxic biodegradable solution for wastewater treatment.

Ng said his car alarm system would reduce vehicular thefts.

"The device will notify car owners with captured images upon detecting intruders."

Meanwhile, a dish from bamboo shoots (*rebung buluh*) inspired several students from USIM to create a



(From left) USM's Muhammad Razif Abd Razak, Meor Muhammad Hafiz Shah Budin, Ng Poh Sing and Syuhairah Ahmad, with their gold and diamond awards. Pic by Ramdzan Masiam

food additive that won multiple awards at the British Invention Show.

The three-man team, all food biotechnology degree students, won a double-gold medal award and the

Best Invention of the Year Award title for their *Bambusia Powder*.

The food additive can be added to provide nutrition to pastries such as bread, pancakes, cookies and pasta.

Team leader Zulfawwaz Mohamad, 22, said their winnings were an important recognition for Malaysian students, especially those from an Islamic studies background.