UMT invention is a cut above

INNOVATION CHAMPS: Universiti Malaysia Terengganu's 'Cut n Drop' wows judges at BSN Inter-Varsity Social Venture Challenge

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UNIVERSITI Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) recently walked away with RM25,000 in premium savings certificates (SSP) after winning the Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) Inter-Varsity Social Venture Challenge (SVC) for the second consecutive year.

Beating seven other teams, they impressed the panel of judges with their innovative drug test kit called the 'Cut n Drop.'

The 'Cut n Drop' functions by way of dropping a person's hair into a vial coated with printed polymer that can detect drugs.

The idea for this easy-to-handle kit arose from the worrying report by the Malaysia National Anti-Drug Agency of drug addicts as young as 13 years old.

At the award presentation ceremony, team leader Nik Nurfarah Fareena Auddin, 22, told reporters that their research began six months ago.

"We need to work with many agencies for further research before putting this test kit in the market," she said. "This new low-cost tool can be a big contribution to the country."

Her team members were Mohd Nizamuddin Japri, 22; Hamka Jaafar, 22; and Ruwaida Farah Hanan, 24.

UMT deputy vice-chancellor, Professor Dr. Yahaya Ibrahim, said: "We didn't expect to win again as this year's competition was tougher, but what really surprised us was the RM50,000 for last year's project."

Last year, UMT won for its 'Nira Profits' project. At the ceremony, BSN contributed RM50,000 to further develop the project and assist the community.

In second place this year was Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, winning RM15,000 in SSPs for their 'Tee for Tree' project, while Universiti Utara Malaysia took third place for 'Cellulosic Ethanol Bio-Fuel' which won them RM10,000 in SSPs.

Besides the SSPs, winners also took home iPad2s, Samsung Galaxy Tabs, book vouchers and trophies.

Also present at the ceremony were BSN deputy chief executive, Winston E. Jeyaprakash and Higher Education Ministry deputy secretary general, Datuk Rohani Abdullah.

"Social entrepreneurship is still new in Malaysia and should be further explored, especially by the young minds," said Jeyaprakash.

SVC chief judge, Chandran Nair, from the Global Institute for Tomorrow commended BSN's initiatives for social changes through the youth and hoped that other banks will follow in these footsteps.

The SVC encourages students to be creative and inculcate entrepreneurial skill by putting forward viable and sustainable business plans for the community's benefit.

(From left) Mohd Nizamuddin Japri, Ruwaida Farah Hanan, Hamka Jaafar and Nik Nurfarah Fareena Auddin with their prices. Pics by Osman Adnan

Nik Nurfarah Fareena Auddin receiving the team's trophy from Datuk Rohani Abdullah. Looking on are team mates (from left) Mohd Nizamuddin Japri, Ruwaida Farah Hanan and Hamka Jaafar.