

PRESS RELEASE

UNIMAS Achieves 8 Golds at ITEX'23

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) has once again showcased its excellence in innovation and research by bagging an impressive haul of 6 gold medals and 2 silver medals from 8 submissions at the 34th International Invention, Innovation, and Technology Exhibition (ITEX'23). The event, organized by the Malaysian Invention & Design Society (MINDS), took place from 10th to 12th May 2023 at the KLCC Convention Centre.

ITEX is an esteemed platform that brings together inventors, researchers, and innovators from around the world to showcase their ground breaking ideas and inventions in the fields of Healthcare, ICT, and Biotechnology. With participants from over 19 countries and 700 inventions, the event provides a global stage for emerging technologies and serves as a catalyst for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

UNIMAS, known for its commitment to fostering innovation and research, made a significant impact at ITEX'23 by securing eight medals underscoring the University's dedication as a Community-Driven University to pushing the boundaries of knowledge and making impactful contributions to society.



From left to right: Dr Jerome Kueh, Mr Ahmad Alif Kamal, Dr Rehman Ullah Khan, Mdm Noraziah Abdul Wahab, Prof Dr Wan Hashim Wan Ibrahim (Deputy Vice Chanveller (Research & Innovation)), Prof Dr Lo May Chiun (Senior Director, UNIMAS

Innovation), Dr Isabel Fong Lim, Assoc Prof Dr Johari Abdullah, Dr Juna Liau and Assoc Prof Dr Mohd Razip Asaruddin.

Below are the inventions and awards achieved by UNIMAS at ITEX'23:

Healthcare:

Assoc Prof Dr Mohd Razip Asaruddin from the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology obtained a gold medal for his invention named **The VCure**, an edible and topical virgin coconut oil emulsion film. It is a natural-based plaster with bioactive compound for wound treatment.

Dr Isabel Fong Lim from the Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences obtained a gold medal for her invention, **JardinRx: Garden of Health Against Colorectal Cancer**. This is another natural product from UNIMAS derived from an herbal plant, *Clinacantus nutans*. This product demonstrates anticancer properties in two human colorectal cancer cell lines.

Information & Communication Technology:

Assoc Prof Dr Johari Abdullah from the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology developed a new generation educational tool named **Student Emotion Detection Systems (SEEDs)**. In an era in which digital classroom is becoming a norm, this invention which won a gold for UNIMAS, is equipped with artificial intelligence to interpret students' emotions during online teaching and learning activities.

Dr Rehman Ullah Khan from the Faculty of Cognitive Science and Human Development developed another gold-awarded educational tool named the **Online Collaborative Learning System (iCOLLABS)**. Students are allowed to interact with each other virtually with this new tool, which the existing digital classroom platform could not provide.

Mr Ahmad Alif Kamal from the Centre of Pre-University Studies developed an educational tool named **HazHunt: Marker-based AR App for Physical & Chemical Hazard Identification Training**. This is also another gold-awarded tool for occupational health and safety incorporating state-of-the-art Augmented Reality (AR), to enhance understanding of risks at workplace and taking action to ensure personal safety.

Biotechnology:

Mdm Noraziah Abdul Wahab from the Faculty of Engineering with a research project entitled **Development of Phytobiotics as Disinfectant for Sustainable Water Treatment**, won the sixth gold for UNIMAS. She developed a natural based disinfectant from an herbal plant, *Centratherum punctatum*, which provides safe and cheaper alternative to the chlorin we added to our clean water supply.

Others:

Dr Juna Liau from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities developed a framework of documenting **Ethnomedicine and its Potential**; while **Dr Jerome Kueh** from the Faculty of Economic and Business developed **Digital Economy Progress Index: An Innovative Perspective**. They won a silver each.

In conclusion, UNIMAS's remarkable achievement at ITEX'23 demonstrates its dedication to advancing knowledge and innovation. The inventions showcased not only highlight the University's expertise but also underline its commitment to addressing global challenges and making a positive impact on society. With its consistent pursuit of excellence, UNIMAS is poised to continue contributing significantly to the advancement of science, technology, and innovation in Malaysia and beyond.