

UMP get nod to commercialise products

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KUANTAN: Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) is ready to commercialise its expertise and products presented by its staff after getting the nod from its board of directors.

Its main target is the small and medium industry players and strategic alliances have already been formed to promote some products especially the multi-award ginger extraction technique.

Kuktem Holdings, UMP's subsidiary and business arm, will be responsible for making its products and services attractive to generate income for the university.

According to its Vice Chancellor Datuk Dr Mohamed Said Mat Lela, the university still received allocations from the Government but this would gradually be reduced.

"We are expected to be able to generate at least 30% of our own income by 2010.

"This is one of the reasons for setting up Kuktem Holdings," he said when met here recently.

He added that the university had produced various award-winning innovations, be it locally and abroad, for the past few years and it was time these inventions were commercialised.

One of them was the popular ginger extraction technique



Partners: One of the companies with which UMP has struck an alliance is BASF Petronas Chemicals Sdn Bhd (BPC). Seen here are Mohamad Said (left) and BPC site director Dr Werner Hefner at the handing over of process instruments donated by BPC to the university last month.

which could also be used to extract oil, juice or essence from plants and fruits, said Mohamed Said.

"We want to translate all these into money and help bring income to the university," he added.

Other than the inventions, the university had a pool of experts who could offer services in build-

ing inspection, bio-technology, mechanical and automotive engineering, he said.

In fact, many of them had worked with the state to come up with a blueprint on how to develop biotechnology in Pahang, he added.

Mohamed Said said he expected UMP to rake in profits in the next three to four years after

putting all its plans in place this year.

On the university's commercial park, Mohamed Said said it was a strategic alliance forged with the industrial sector.

In a move to improve products and services, the industrial sector could carry out research and development activities in the university, he added.