Aquaponics wins award for UMS student

ROTA KINABAU: A Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) alumni made his university proud when he was recently chosen as a "Mosti Social Innovation 2018" recipient by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) for his work on aquafarm business.

Azirul Julriin, who was a student of UMS Faculty of Science and Natural Resources (FSSA) from 2006 to 2010, also received a grant of RM200,000 from Mosti.

"The aquafarm business is a farm with aquaponics features, which is the first fusion of aquaculture and hydroponic system in Sabah. I was inspired to start the business with an environmental-friendly concept after gaining experience during my industrial training in Japan," he said. He said he plants coral lettuce, pak-choi, green tomatoes, raspberries and other vegetables in a "rain house" together with fish and lobster breeding. This concept can make the crops more fertile without using fertiliser and pesticides, according to him.

"The aquaponics method is not only free of fertiliser and pesticide but also much more cost effective and produces quick results, in the span of two to three weeks," he added.

On a related note, Azirul said he provides advice as well as guidance to anyone interested in learning the aquaponics business.

He welcomes the public, especially UMS alumni, to learn and involve themselves in the business which at the same time will expand the aquafarm business field. Those interested in learning the business may contact the UMS Alumni Centre (07-4880971).

Grab opportunities in digital economy, UMS grads urged

ROTA KINABAU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) graduates are urged to grab opportunities in the digital economy industry that is ever-growing in the country.

Malaysia Digital Economy Corp (MDEC) Chief Executive Officer Datuk Yasmin Mahmood said this is because the digital and information technology industry is playing an increasingly important role in the aspect of daily life as well as changing the landscape of the current business field.

"The world today actively connects through various applications such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. These elements are also used in the current business field.

"Technology such as Mobile Wallet and Virtual Reality are also starting to be used in business services abroad, enabling the digital economy in the country to flourish," she said in a talk titled "Championing Malaysia's Digital Economy" at the UMS 2nd Central Lecture Hall.

She added that the Government has also introduced various initiatives such as e- Sahawas and eKerjaya to provide people opportunities to take part in the digital economy which at the same time will assist in expanding their business as well as increasing their individual income.

"This creative industry is expanding with various local animation such as Ipin Ipin, Boboboy and others that also obtain market abroad," she said.

More than 500 students took part in the talk which was also attended by UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr D Kamarudin Md. Mudir.