

UTM the first varsity to win PM Quality Award

By **HAMISAH HAMID** BT 14.9.2000

UNIVERSITI Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) yesterday became the first university in the country to receive the Prime Minister's Quality Award 1999 for public sector.

With more than 30,000 students and staff, UTM has been recognised for its efforts in enhancing the professionalism of its staff and inculcate quality values in its management machinery.

The university's achievements in quality administration have also been recognised by the standards certification of ISO 9002 for its library services (Sultanah Zanariah Library) and Laboratory Accreditation Certificate for its Laboratory Development Unit.

The Quality Award for private sector went to Asean Bintulu Fertilizer Sdn Bhd (ABF), a joint-venture company of five founding members of Asean — Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Phillipines and Singapore.

Located in Bintulu, ABF is now among the biggest urea granular plants in Asia, producing about 1,320 tonnes of anhydrous ammonia and 1,860 tonnes of urea granular a day. With a workforce of 380 people, the ammonia-based petrochemical company managed to reduce the rate of medical leave and turnover among its staff below the industry rate. The Malaysia Red Crescent Society (PBSM) of Miri branch, Sarawak has bagged the Quality Award for social-economic sector.

Established in 1951, PBSM Miri branch now has its own building, set up a dialysis centre with 15 modern dialysis machines, initiated a blood bank and established Sunflower Centre to look after children with down syndrome, autism and other disabilities.

The awards were presented by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at a ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.