



Prof Wan Azlee and his research team at the expo.

Top tech expo medallists

UNIVERSITI Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) managed to win the most gold medals at the Malaysian Technology Expo which ended recently.

Its vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Zaini Ujang said the university's staff obtained 23 gold medals, 22 silver and four bronze.

"Our researchers also won other awards including Best of the Best, the Best Award and the Best Biotechnology Award which was presented by the Japan Intellectual Property Association," he said.

The Best of the Best award was won by Prof Dr Wan Azlee Abu Bakar who is from the Chemistry Department in the Science Faculty.

His research is based on environmental concerns that have driven the need to remove sulfur-containing compounds from light oil.

An excerpt from Prof Wan Azlee's abstract explains that the claim invention is called DesCat which comprises manganese based

catalyst, tert-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP) as oxidant and dimethylformamide (DMF) as solvent extraction.

Prof Zaini said UTM has won the Best of the Best award four times in the last five years — in 2008, 2010, 2011 and this year.

The Best Award was won by Dr Faizah Abd Gani from the Education Faculty for her product known as the NAFS Discovery System: Discover Your True Self.

Prof Dr Sheikh Hussein Salleh from the Biomedical Engineering and Health Science Faculty won the Best Biotechnology Award for his Smart ABR System which is able to detect hearing loss in five minutes instead of 30 minutes using the conventional method.

UTM took part in 24 categories at the expo with 48 innovative products.

Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Putra Malaysia obtained eight and six gold medals respectively.