

'UPM grads get jobs easily'

KUALA LUMPUR: Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) boasts an employability rate of 82.2 per cent, one of the highest in the country, said UPM Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Fauzi Ramlan.

Speaking at the university's 2014 Gemilang Akademia Putra awards ceremony here yesterday, Fauzi said that the percentage was higher than the Education Ministry's employability target rate for universities.

"Of the 3,380 graduates last year, 82.2 per cent have either been employed or furthered their education or technical training in other institutes."

The high employability rate, Fauzi said, was a testament to UPM's focus on producing graduates who met industry and employee demands.

"Creating functional graduates is the fundamental goal of the university. Our employability rate speaks for itself."

The ceremony saw the presentation of the Vice-Chancellor Fellowship award and Akademia Putra spe-



Dr Hafandi Ahmad (left) briefing Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah (right) on his research. Pic by Azhar Ramli

cial award to 17 of the university's academic and support staff, who have excelled in their teaching, learning, research, consulting and professional services.

The awards were presented by UPM chancellor Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

One of the recipients, Dr Hafandi Ahmad, 35, said he was humbled by the recognition.

"I feel proud to have been given the award for which I have worked for four years."

Hafandi's research was on Alzheimer's disease, anxiety and depression.

Another recipient, Prof Dr Maznah Ismail, who received the Vice-Chancellor Fellowship award in research and innovation, said she had pioneered two companies through

her research.

"My companies have been commercialising health products for a few years and the public response has been encouraging," she said, adding that she had won the award in 2012 and 2013.

Recipients of the awards were given a trophy, certificate and grant of up to RM10,000 to further their research.