

Headline	Top grads attribute success to family support		
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Top grads attribute success to family support

THE pressure of being the eldest child and the need to set a good example for his four younger siblings was what led Mohd Khairul Nizam Suhaimin to study hard.

For his effort, he earned the Royal Education Award at the 12th Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) convocation ceremony in Malacca recently. Mohd Khairul Nizam, 23, now an engineer with a company in Johor, said he also felt pressured to do well because of the hope his parents had in him.

"I owe my success to my parents and their strict upbringing.

"My mother and father have different personalities even though they are both teachers. *Ayah* is tougher than *Umi*. I was a school prefect and I remember how *Ayah* reprimanded me in front of my peers because I was unable to control a noisy class.

"He caned me and I had to put up with some teasing from my friends after the incident," said the eldest child of Suhaimin Yasin, 50, and Hayati Mohd Nor, 53, from Besut, Terengganu.

Earlier, Mohd Khairul Nizam, who was also UTeM Student Representative Council president for the 2014/2015 session, received a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering Technology (Hons) in Automotive Technology having obtained a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.48.



Ong (left) and Mohd Khairul Nizam stand proud as they receive the award.
— Bernama

He received his scroll from Malacca Governor Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob, who is also UTeM Chancellor.

A total of 2,792 graduates in various fields and levels of education received their scrolls at the four-day convocation ceremony.

Another Royal Education Award recipient, Ong Sze Mun, 24, from the Electrical Engineering Faculty said she was pleasantly surprised.

"I did not expect to receive the award as I haven't been active in co-curricular activities, having

only represented UTeM as a debater," said the Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) scholarship holder.

Ong, who holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering with honours obtained a CGPA of 4.0, hopes to join TNB as an engineer.

"I have no regrets going into the engineering field, foregoing my ambition of becoming a lawyer," said Ong.

The youngest of four siblings Currently a research and development engineer in Shah Alam, Ong said UTeM was not only the

best platform to gain experience and knowledge, but also offered a whole new world for students with potential to move forward.

In his address, Mohd Khalil said innovation could boost competitiveness at the international level and be a more lucrative source of income.

Khalil said graduates should tap their creative and innovative side to the fullest.

Aware of the importance of innovation, the government he said had announced the National Science, Technology and

Innovation Innovation policy in 2013 to spur the economy so that it would have a high impact in positioning Malaysia in the eyes of the world.

"The word innovation should be synonymous with the graduates of UTeM.

"We we should emulate nations like South Korea, China and Taiwan which have advanced far with innovation and industrialisation," he added.

Khalil said as a result of continuous innovation, companies such as Samsung, Huawei and HTC were now among the greatest competitors to the world's major conglomerates such as Apple and Microsoft.

He said although coming up with innovations was no easy feat, graduates from the varsity must not be easily defeated should they fail.

"They must not see their failures as wasted effort but as attempts to improve and hone their skills," he said.

Khalil also emphasised the importance of human capital development, and called for graduates to have and uphold integrity.

"To ensure that the national agenda towards a developed nation is achieved, the youth of today must have integrity, honour and sow the seeds of patriotism in their lives." — Bernama