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Cars for the future

Unimas students come up with designs

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 Photo by **ANDRE OLIVEIRO**

KOTA SAMARAHAN: Students at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) have come up with several electric car designs which the university hopes to commercialise in the next few years.

Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts senior lecturer Dr Saiful Bahari Mohd Yusoff said the designs were from a first-semester project by second-year students done in collaboration with Mimos.

"The project is about designing an electric vehicle in relation to environmental issues such as the depletion of energy sources and pollution.

"The students designed the cars in teams and came up with seven different models. They then created 1:4 scale models of their designs," he told reporters at a preview of the students' work at Unimas here.

Dr Saiful said the faculty now planned to apply for a grant from the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry to produce a prototype of one of the designs.

"We will select the design which has the potential to be a practical electric car for use in Malaysia.

"Hopefully, in three to four years, we will be able to produce the prototype," he said, adding that the cost of producing a full-scale model would be about RM200,000.



Innovative: Dr Saiful explaining the UECar design to the media during the preview at Unimas in Kota Samarahan recently.

Meanwhile, student Shah Jhihan Abdullah said that one of the models dubbed the MyEV was designed to be an alternative means of transport for tourists.

He said the car's concept included a global positioning system for tourists to find their way around

places.

"It is designed to have maximum speed of 90kph and run on a rechargeable battery with a 36-hour span," he said, adding that the scale model took three months to build.

Another design was the UECar

which can seat four persons and targeted for use by university staff and students on campus.

"This model is well executed in its finishing while the design is sleek. It is a good effort by the students," Dr Saiful said of the UECar.