

# Innovation takes centrestage

By Chandra Devi

TEAM Brake Awareness System from University College Sedaya International (UCSI) took the *Philips Young Inventors 2006* title with their design of a brake awareness system that functions both as a brake light and warning indicator to minimise chain car accidents and provides a warning system to ward off vehicle collisions.

For the feat, the team walked away with a crafted crystal trophy together with RM10,000 in cash and a selection of Philips products.

The second and third places went to Team Baby Philips from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia/UTM (Johor campus) and Team WindLED from Multimedia University (MMU) respectively; each team walked away with cash prizes of RM5,000 and RM3,000 respectively together with a selection of Philips products.

The second-prize winners presented a multi-purpose educational learning toy that helps to improve the physical, social and mental developments of babies and toddlers while the third-prize winners showcased a crosswind detector lit by light-emitting

diodes (LEDs) and powered by a wind-driven dynamo for use along open highways for the safety of motorists.

Besides that, two special category prizes were given out for *Best Presentation* and *Most Compelling Idea*, which came with a RM1,000 cash prize together with Philips products. The winner for *Best Presentation* also went to Team Brake Awareness System while the *Most Compelling Idea* award was given to Team WindLED.

*Philips Young Inventors*, an event aimed at providing a platform for creative young individuals to explore the areas of invention and technological advances, this time called on students from local institutions of higher learning to innovate around LEDs.

Now in its third year, the event saw over 100 participants submitting concept papers in January and eight teams being selected for the final round in March. The eight finalist teams came from the design or engineering faculties of three Malaysian universities: UTM (three teams), MMU (three teams) and UCSI (two teams).

Other innovations based on the Philips LED modules included a light block wall to create different ambi-

ences, a parking meter status alert, a decibel indicator, a colour and aroma-therapy lamp and a fish lure.

Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, chairman of Multimedia Development Corporation, who headed the panel of judges for the competition, said the event showed that Malaysian students can think out-of-the-box and invent

interesting yet functional products. The only lacking element in all the teams, he highlighted, was the ability to present and communicate their concepts clearly.

His views were shared by Raja Kumar, chairman and chief executive officer of Philips Group of Companies in Malaysia.



**The winners posing with Abdul Halim (standing, centre), Raja Kumar (standing, fifth from right) and the judges.**