

PERPUSTAKAAN AWAM PASIR GUDANG

KERATAN AKHBAR BERKAITAN PASIR GUDANG

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Invention to help coffee producers



Normala (right) looking at the automated coffee bean chiller machine at Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan in Pasir Gudang, Johor

Students build chiller to speed-up process of freezing beans in large quantities

By MOHD FARHAAN SHAH
farhaan@thestar.com.my

PASIR GUDANG: A group of Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan (PIS) students have built a custom-made chiller machine that would help small and medium-sized enterprises involved in the coffee industry.

Research head Muhammad Mustapha said the group built the automated coffee bean chiller machine in July this year to help a local producer.

"We received a RM40,000 grant from the Public-Private Research Network (PPRN), which is a programme under the Higher Education Ministry to help small and medium-sized players.

"This machine helps speed up the process of freezing the coffee beans that have already been cooked at the right temperature in large quantities," he said at a ceremony to unveil the machine which was attended by Pasir Gudang MP Datuk Normala Abdul Samad.

Muhammad said it took his team, which comprised five PIS students, a few months after receiving the grant from PPRN in April.

"Before we built the machine, we conducted research to identify the main issues faced by local coffee producers.

"We noticed that they did not have the right method to freeze coffee beans, which is the main reason they were unable to increase their production," he said.

Muhammad added that the device did not use any chemicals to chill the beans but relies entirely on a fan installed inside.

"The machine weighs about 500kg and is able to freeze about 32kg of coffee beans in just 10 minutes," he said.

Hamidy Coffee Industry owner Hamidy Hassan, 45, from Perak, who sought the assistance of the group, said he was confident of doubling his production through the machine.

He pointed out that with the machine, he could chill more than 300kg of coffee beans at one go and that previously he used to do it manually.

"It is time consuming as I need to wait at least half an hour to chill less than 30kg of coffee beans.

"I was advised to get assistance through the PPRN and it has really paid off as they were able to deliver the machine in just a few months," he added.

Normala congratulated the group and said their machine would help many small players in the industry.

