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## UTP bags 10 gold medals in annual varsity sports championship

BY JOLYNN FRANCIS



UTP athletes and officials celebrating after receiving their awards at the Kejohanan Sukan Masiswa Zon Utara in TARUC, Penang.



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UNIVERSITI Teknologi Petronas (UTP) has once again claimed the overall champion spot at the Kejohanan Sukan Masiswa Zon Utara 2016 for the seventh year in a row.

Organised by Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TARUC) in collaboration with the Education Ministry and Majlis Sukan IPTS Malaysia (Masiswa), the competition saw participation from 16 private higher education institutions including Quest International University Perak, Stradford International

College, Wawasan Open University, Sentral Penang, KDU University College Penang and Kolej Poly-Tech Mara Alor Setar.



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The annual contest, aimed at encouraging student participation in co-curricular activities, consisted of eight events namely bowling, chess, table tennis, badminton, netball, basketball, volleyball and futsal.

UTP snagged gold medals in Men's Singles bowling, Women's Singles bowling, Trio bowling, Men's Singles table tennis, Women's Singles table tennis, Men's Doubles table tennis, Mixed Doubles table tennis, Men's Doubles badminton, netball and Men's volleyball categories.

They also took home five silver medals in Men's bowling, Men's chess, Women's chess, Women's badminton and Mixed Doubles badminton categories and one bronze medal in Women's Singles bowling.

UTP co-curriculum unit manager Ahmad Pg Abdullah said the number of gold medals won was 10 compared to the previous year of seven.

"Even though we have been the overall champs since 2010, it's a struggle to maintain it as there are many out there who want to beat us," he told a press conference after the event's closing ceremony at the TARUC campus in Tanjung Bungah, Penang, on Monday.

When asked the secret to their success, Ahmad said it all boiled down to training.

"We get national coaches and players to coach our students.

"We also sent our athletes to various tournaments to get more exposure," he said.

TARUC's Chan Yi Ting and Lee Ai Lin, who bagged the only gold for their university college in the Women's Doubles table tennis said they were proud with their achievement.

"We always try to practise for two to three hours every day if there's an approaching tournament," Chan said.

TAR Penang branch campus head Amos Teoh Eng Hock, championship organising chairman Lim Lay Sim and Masiswa research & development committee member and Universiti Tenaga Nasional student affairs director Dr Abdul Aziz Mat Isa attended the final day's proceedings.