

A proud achievement

AN Android Vehicle Control System, which allows drivers to control the system of a car by only using a smartphone was created by a team of students from Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Spanish Institute (UniKL MSI), Kulim, Kedah and recognised in the Novel Research and Innovation Competition (NRIC) 2015 recently.

The control system, which was developed by final year students of Bachelor in Engineering Technology of Automotive (BETA) in Mechatronics UniKL MSI has indirectly defeated the other 123 groups of students from various institutes who also took part in the competition.

Norzalina Othman, advisor of the vehicle control system project said the students were able to achieve a Gold Medal and the Special Innovation Award through their participation in the event, which was organised by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USIM).

The adviser said that the unexpected achievement does not only make herself proud, but also the whole UniKL MSI.

"The idea of developing a vehicle control system was a brainchild of Muhammad Raihan Hisham, 25, a student of UniKL MSI who was under my supervision.

"All of the ideas and development of the system were done himself and as a supervisor, I only helped in giving opinions and advice," she said.

Norzalina added that the system

developed by her students is the first of its kind in the country, with various controls including a few vehicle systems, which also include the single vehicle-centred key system.

Through this system, the owners of the vehicles can lock or unlock their vehicles within the range of 17m by only using their smartphones. The system is better than the typical alarm system, which is currently used in the country's automotive industry.

As a matter of fact, by using this system, the owner or driver of a vehicle can use their smartphone to control the vehicle's signal system, audio and even start up the engine without using any key.

Norzalina also explained what makes this project more special is that the vehicle's control system can be installed in six different smartphones at one time for a particular vehicle, making it easier for the driver or owner involved.

"Six quotas of smartphones are sure to reduce risk of loss of the owner if something such as losing the vehicle's key, which is very common, occur."

"Only the owner of the vehicle has the password of the vehicle system that was estimated to cost about RM500 to RM700 to be installed. The system can be installed on all normal vehicles that do not use the digital system normally used by the manufacturers of luxury cars," she said.

She said that among the benefits of the



Norzalina Othman (second from left) posing for a picture with the students of UniKL MSI who won a gold medal and a special award in the Novel Research and Innovation Competition (NRIC 2015) with the Android Vehicle Control System project.



Muhammad Raihan Hisham showing the Android application that is created for a vehicle's control system and won the gold medal during NRIC 2015.

system is that owners of the vehicles will be able to get a signal through their smartphones if their vehicles are facing danger, such as disaster or burglary.

She also mentioned that the system uses a remote control connected with the vehicle's wiring system and the remote control can be controlled directly through a smartphone.

"The system can be upgraded at any time

as soon as it is installed in the vehicle since a research is being done to allow the system to control more functions of the vehicle, such as the steering lock system while the vehicle is moving," explained Norzalina, who is also a senior lecturer in UniKL MSI.

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