Engineers showcase skills at college meet

Caledonian College of Engineering's second annual Tech Fest is aimed at promoting innovation among youth in the Sultanate

SARAH MACDONALD
sarahd@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: Students from colleges around Oman shared their innovations at Caledonian College of Engineering's 2nd annual Tech Fest, a symposium aimed at promoting innovation among youth in the Sultanate.

Tech Fest kicked off on Monday morning under the auspices of chief guest Dr. Saif Abdul-Aziz Al Haddad, Assistant Secretary General for Programs and Research at the Research Council, and keynote speaker Salm Hamaid Al Mahrooci, Technical Director of Ray Precision Engineering LLC.

Tech Fest includes a number of events, including a competition for the best new innovation in engineering, following which the winning projects will be taken up for further research and funding. A quiz on general and scientific knowledge, a robotics competition, and an exhibition of emerging technologies were also part of the festivities.

"The project that you are doing is not only going to benefit you. If you launch a company probably 20 people will get a job, so the efforts you are actually making are going to help society," said Al Mahrooci.

The students' ideas included a wide range of inventions, such as wind turbines to generate energy, grey water treatment machines, homemade air conditioners, and fresh and solar-powered SATV.

"It is really happy to see the faces of the students who are looking to the future for bringing solutions to the problems of the world. This is an innovative approach and I think we need to see more of these initiatives in the region," Al Haddad told the students and faculty who gathered for the launch of Tech Fest.

Al Haddad said there are many problems in the world that need solutions, but at local and global levels, and that is a great need for research and development. He encouraged the students to pursue knowledge and become inventors and entrepreneurs.

"Falaj system"

Al Mahrooci also spoke about the need for innovation, a concept that has long existed in Oman, especially with the development of the falaj system to bring fresh water from the mountains for drinking and irrigating farms.

He said students may have wonderful ideas and inventions but rather than keeping them in their classes, they need to look outwardly and try to market their innovations.

"The challenge for the students is to commercialise their ideas and benefit society," he noted.

CCE Tech Fest 2015 showcases innovation at its best

Higher education institutions play an important role in developing talents and this can be used to boost research and innovation in the country, said Dr. Saif al Haddad, assistant secretary general for programmes and research, the Research Council (TRC).

Dr Haddad was speaking at the launch of Caledonian College of Engineering's Tech Fest 2015, which showcased student projects from 14 different institutions across the country.

"This is a moment of great pride and joy," he said. "We are proud of our students' achievements and we are confident that they will continue to make a significant contribution to Oman's future."

"The Tech Fest is a showcase of creativity and innovation," he said. "It is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their skills and talents and to compete with their peers in a variety of fields."

"We are happy to see the level of participation this year," he said. "The students have come up with a wide range of projects and ideas, and we are confident that they will continue to do so in the future."

"It is important for us to provide our students with the best possible education and training so that they are prepared to meet the challenges of the future," he said. "We are proud of the work of our students and we are confident that they will continue to excel in their studies and careers."

"The Tech Fest is an important event for our students and we are grateful to all those who have contributed to its success," he said. "We are confident that it will continue to be a successful event in the years to come."

"Thank you to all those who have contributed to the success of the Tech Fest," he said. "We are grateful to the students, staff, and volunteers who have worked so hard to make this event a success."