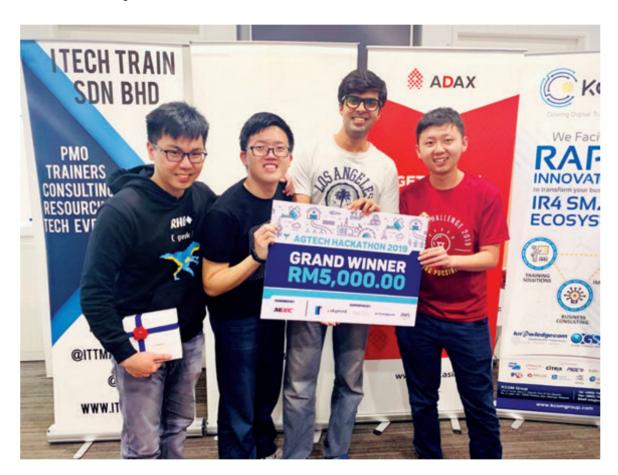# UM WINS FIRST DIGITAL AGTECH HACKATHON

by Ir. Dr David Chuah Joon Huang

A team of year four electrical engineering students from the University of Malaya (UM) won first prize in the 1st Digital Agtech Hackathon in Malaysia. The team members were Cha Zhi Yong, Koay Hong Vin, Ng Tarng Jian and Rahulraj Singh.

The aim of the hackathon, organised by Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), was to develop a chili grading application on the mobile or web platform and then sell it as a business idea. The team with the best chili grading accuracy and business pitch would be declared winner.

With continuous support and advice from Ir. Dr David Chuah Joon Huang, the UM team developed a machine learning model to perform the chili grading. Using graded sample chili data provided by MDEC and various data augmenting algorithms, the team managed to achieve an accuracy of 95%. Coupled with a business idea that would bring the technology to all farmers in the country, the team managed to secure first place and take home the cash prize of RM5,000.

Of the 30 teams participating in the hackathon, 11 teams were from institutions of higher learning while one team was from a secondary school and the rest from external business corporations. ■