



Chua (second from right) and FSM President Datuk Wong Khen Thau (right) showing the SME 2009 Recognition Award nomination forms.

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# Sabah SMEs urged to take part in Recognition Award

**KOTA KINABALU:** More participation is being sought from small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Sabah for the national SME Recognition Award 2009.

SMI Association of Malaysia President, Chua Tiam Wee said last year there were several winners from Sabah and one of them, Angkatan Hebat Sdn Bhd won the newly introduced Government-linked Enterprise Excellence Award and the SME Rising Star Award.

“So we hope there will be much more participation from Sabah this year because we know Sabah has a very strong tourism, hospitality industry and in the 1Malaysia spirit we want SMEs from all states to excel,” he said.

Chua was speaking to reporters after attending the official launching of Wisma FSM at the Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park (KKIP) in Sepanggar on Friday.

He said the ninth edition of the SME Recognition Award programme was launched on Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur by Deputy Minister of Information, Communications and Culture, Senator Heng Seai Kie.

He said the award was to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of SMEs in Malaysia.

Chua said the Award had not only provided publicity but also improved the image, credibility and intellectual property value of the 800-odd Award past winners.

He said 2009 has proven to be a difficult year for SMEs as a number of the association members as well as other SMEs had voiced out their hardship following the global recession.

“Our association has taken cognisance of such complaints and is working out various strategies to assist our SMEs regain their footing,” he said.

This year, he said the SME Recognition Award would incorporate many new value-added features and innovations to enhance the quality and relevancy of the awards.

One of the changes involved the category of the award such as in the SME Services Excellence Award Category where it would now clearly state the sector of the Award winner.

This year, several new sub-categories were also being introduced namely for logistics, travel, hotel, restaurant, ICT and financial industries making sure SMEs in any sector of industry is eligible to be nominated for the Award.

Chua added that the organisers had also increased and enhanced the benefit for winners by ensuring greater media publicity at the domestic and international level through the still under construction SME Achievers website.

Nominations for the SME Recognition Award 2009 are now open with the closing deadline set for Sept 15.

Winners would be announced in a special ceremony in mid-November, while the Award Presentation and Grand Dinner for the SME Award has been scheduled for Dec 16.

More information can be obtained by contacting SME Award 2009 Secretariat at 03-80245787 or facsimile 03-80241737 or email to [smeaward@gmail.com](mailto:smeaward@gmail.com) - **Chris Maskilone**

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