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# Gadget boy

**E**VER got stuck rolling up headphone cables every-time you put them away? Well, fret no more thanks to an ingenious invention from Leong Wai Hong of Inti College Malaysia. His Blue Ear creation is especially designed to solve such problems.

Wai Hong's practical invention saw him walking away with a prize at the recent Malaysian Young Designers Awards 2001 organised by the Malaysian Design Council (MDC) under the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry.

MDC chairman Dr Mohamed Arif Nun said the council realises the importance of quality and design innovation in maintaining Malaysia's competitive edge in the world market.

"The quality of the product is dependent on its manufacturing standards, design and creativity.

"This award has once again given the younger generation an opportunity to present the most outstanding products with new designs for local industry," he

added.

Leong is no stranger to winning designing awards. The young inventor has been doing so since he was 12.

He was winner of the Malaysian Young Inventors Award organised by the MDC for three years running (from 1998 to 2000).

Also, on top of bagging the grand-prize in the 1999 competition, Leong's invention, Gear Compass, was also selected as the most "Outstanding Entry".

"I was also the champion for the Hewlett Packard Tech Quiz in 2000 and represented Malaysia to compete with other Asean countries where I emerged as merit winner for the final round in Singapore," he said.

Known among his family and peers for his practical inventions made from recyclable material, Leong's first design - the Automated Robotic Dinosaur - was completed when he was just 10.

He is currently enrolled in



**PROMISING DESIGNER...** Leong has been inventing an winning awards since he was 12.

Inti's American University programme and is a high achiever, receiving the Special Talent Scholarship which grants him a full tuition fee waiver from the college.

Leong harbours a vision to cre-

ate a revolution in thinking and is currently forming an Invention and Innovation Club at his college. He is currently at the University of Texas on a semester-long Student Exchange Programme.