

ASSOC. PROF. TS. DR. ERVIAN EFZAN MHD NOOR

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Photography: Linda Gould @2019

Dr. Ervian Efzan Mhd Noor tells us more about a cost saving invention to develop glass using banana stem as a raw material without involving much usage of material which is expensive compared to banana stem which is a waste material.

Interview by Esther Veerappan

At the Global Women Inventors & Innovators Showcase, London, United Kingdom 2019

Please tell me about your invention?

“My product is about banana stem glass. That is, we produce glass from banana stem. We replace some of the elements inside of glass to produce this. This product is also resistant to weather. Usually most of the glass takes about ten years to [deteriorate]. For this glass, because of the content of calcium inside the Banana Stem Glass, this product can be used for a very long time.”

What was the motivation behind your idea?

“Previously, I was working in glass manufacturing. [The company] was looking for some ideas to replace some of the lead inside of the glass and at the same time some of the very expensive elements and I came up with this idea of using banana stem.”



What stage are you at now with the product(s)?

“Already, we are collaborating with a manufacturing company [who] are interested in producing the product. In the beginning I am hoping to be an adviser for them. I already have the IP for it, we’ll see.”

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What has been the greatest challenge so far?

“People did not believe in my invention. ‘*Banana stem can make glass?*’ is what many people asked. This is the issue I faced at the beginning.”

What about the highlights?

“When I showed them that banana stem can make glass that made me happy. I did it! Also, I got a special award from Euro Invent in Romania last year for the same product.”

What next?

"I have not only focussed on the glass project because my research background is more to do with environmental issues, so I also have a solder material. [With this], we need to reduce or remove the lead so we have lead-free solder meaning that the temperature will also be very low. Normally, for example inside of a PCB (printed circuit board) box, if you want to solder it, the temperature is very high but now most of the product [will have] a smaller lead content. The temperature for lead is very low [therefore] you will need to use low temperatures for soldering."



ASSOC. PROF. TS. DR. ERVINA EFZAN BINTI MHD NOOR from Malaysia was awarded the **GLOBALWIIN SPECIAL RECOGNITION & GOLD INNOVATOR WINNER 2019 AWARD** for her invention on how to save cost by using banana stem as raw material to develop glass without involving much usage of material which is expensive compared to banana stem which is a waste material.



Formally known as GWIIN

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