Culture by ethnic diversity an asset: UMS VC

KOTA KINABALU: Culture shaped by ethnic diversity is an important asset in the Malaysian context.

Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Prof. Datuk ChM. Dr. Taufiq Yap Yun Hin said culture was not only viewed in terms of modernity but also in terms of cultural values as a result of ethnic diversity.

"This cultural value has shaped the civilization that is being created now and in the future.

"Thus, culture is a national identity of Malaysia and the uniqueness of regional ethnic culture in the Borneo context should be shared with the global community," he said at the opening of the 2019 Regional Culture and Ethnic Conference (Persep) at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan) Campus.

The programme, organised by Pusat Penataran Ilmu dan Bahasa (PPIB) UMS, was attended by over 200 participants including 63 presenters.

According to Taufiq, Persep is an excellent platform to bring together culture and ethnic experts across the Southeast Asian region to share their ideas and expertise in collaboration with research and publications.

According to him, regional ethnic

Jualang (second right) presenting a souvenir to Taufiq (second left).

culture has shown the world that we can shape culture from indigenous ethnic diversity, especially in the Borneo region based on our rich heritage, heritage and cultural values.

"The ethnic diversity we have is not only a tourist attraction but a great example to other countries.

"Therefore, let us not allow the current trend of modernization and progress to be a hindrance to our ethnic culture," he added.

The two-day conference was organised in collaboration with Intan Sabah Campus, Department of National Unity and National Integration (JPNIN), and Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (Unissa) Postgraduate Studies Center, Brunei Darusalam.

Taufiq also witnessed the Letter of Intent (LoI) signing between UMS and Unissa PPIB UMS Dean, Prof. Dr. Jualang Azlan Gansau and Sri Rahayu @ Nurjana Dollah.