

UMS eyes more students for science, tech and AI

DE 16.09.19 8

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) strives to increase the number of students in science, technology, and artificial intelligence.

UMS Vice Chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin, said this was in line with the Government's commitment to advance the country's science, technology and artificial intelligence by providing the necessary research and development funds to ensure the country

was united and to be the driver of the 4th Industrial Revolution or IR4.0.

"IR 4.0 has revealed the power of the Internet, science and technology by the examples of Airbnb, Netflix, Grab, Spotify and Waze applications.

"Six-year-old Grab, for example, is now worth over US\$1 billion, compared to Microsoft which takes 15 years to set up at US\$1 billion.

"The Government recognises that to be

a highly-competitive nation requires more skilled human resources in the areas of technology, creativity and innovation.

"That is why UMS is working to increase the number of students in science, technology and artificial intelligence, with an expectation of 60 per cent of first-degree students pursuing a science degree," he said at the 9th UMS Foundation in Science Course Graduation Ceremony d at the UMS Recital Hall, Friday.

His speech was read by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics and International Students), Prof Dr Rasid Mail.

"Therefore, I urge all students to continue to develop an interest in science, technology and artificial intelligence.

"Prove to the world that the students are also part of the story of the 4th Industrial Revolution not only in Malaysia but around the world," he said.

Earlier, the Director of PPST, Associate Prof Ts. Dr Sazmal Effendi Arshad said the PPST played a vital role in helping universities and countries produce more graduates in science and technology.

He said the total number of Basic Science students produced by the PPST was 2,000, beginning from the recruitment of students from the 2010/2011 term up to the current 2018/2019.

"This is the amount that has been provided to the university for its undergraduate programmes, and with strong support of the university, PPST has been able to achieve higher levels in preparing students to pursue their studies in science and technology.

"Indeed, the PPST is committed to producing a generation that will continue to struggle in science and technology especially in line with the present and future needs of the country," said Dr Sazmal.

At the ceremony, Prof Dr Rasid Mail presented the Foundation in Science course completion certificates to 295 graduates, as well as four awards to four top students, namely the Vice Chancellor's Award to Mansura Mohameed, Director's Award to Yii Ming Kai, Anugerah Pelajar Harapan to Alisha Shahana Mohd Sharil and Anugerah Pelajar Berdedikasi dan Berkepimpinan to Eliezer Nevall Anthony.