

UMS discusses with London college to develop Research and Innovation Incubation Hub

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KOTA KINABALU: University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) held a research discussion with Imperial College (IC) in South Kensington London, recently, as one of the efforts to realise the development of a Research and Innovation Incubation Hub at the university.

UMS delegation was led by its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor while the IC was represented by Provost Professor Dr Ian Walmsley.

According to Dr Kasim, the state of Sabah is rich in natural resources, particularly those related to biodiversity, marine, oil and gas that can be developed through research and innovation into high value goods.

"Sabah is strategically situated by the sea and is part of the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).



The UMS delegation led by Kasim (seventh right) and Imperial College London taking a commemorative photo after the discussion session.

"As a result, Sabah has the ability to contribute resources, and UMS serves as the only public university in the state as a venue for collaborative research in a variety of subjects, particularly engineering, technology, medicine and business," he said.

Also present were UMS Board of Directors member Samasuddin

Yusop; registrar, Luqman Ridha Anwar; treasurer, Badrul Hisyam Ismail; and Deputy Director (Strategic) Research Management Center, Associate Prof Dr Fatimah Ahmedy.

Dr Ian appreciated UMS's efforts in developing a Research and Innovation Incubation Hub.

He also shared the university's activities in research and product

commercialization.

"IC drives research and innovation results through the opening of 373 start-up companies and 370 patents from students and staff for the goal of product commercialization.

"It was successfully implemented through the creation of incubation hubs and scale spaces, creation spaces

and research hubs within the university's special area known as White City," explained Dr Ian.

Meanwhile, UMS Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, Professor Ir Dr Rosalam Sarbatly informed that the development of White City by IC is seen in line with the efforts of UMS which is developing an incubation hub for the

commercialisation of research and innovation products.

"For the record, throughout the past few years, researchers from UMS and IC have collaborated to build a strong connection," he said.

The potential for collaboration in the field of infectious disease simulation was also highlighted at the meeting using artificial intelligence technology, which may quickly and efficiently mitigate epidemics by detecting changes in their dispersion in real time. In addition, a sharing topic related to ecology and infectious diseases among small animals in the Sabah area was also presented by IC researcher, Professor Dr Rob Ewars.

Also present, Director of Borneo Medical and Health Research Center UMS, Prof Dr Kamruddin Ahmed and IC Infectious Disease Epidemiology Professor, Prof Dr Azra Gani.