

UMS launches Living Lab

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) launched its Living Lab at the Marine Aquarium and Museum, Borneo Marine Research Institute on Wednesday.

"UMS as a comprehensive university has started the development of its Living Lab since mid 2022.

"UMS' mission is to ensure our Living Lab can become an inspiration to universities, communities, industries in creating innovation, in line with the university's theme as a leader in innovative community, 'Leading Towards Innovative Societies,'" said UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor.

He said that the application of the Living Lab is a collaborative approach for innovations that involves various stakeholders. The Living Lab is often used in the field of smart cities, healthcare, sustainability and education.

He added the area where the launching was taking place was also a living laboratory that was involved in technology testing, products and services based on marines.

Dr Kasim also said that Malaysia aspires to make innovation the main driver of the

country's economic growth, and one of these drivers is creating an innovation landscape in our beloved Malaysia.

He said that the Higher Education Ministry (KPT) has drafted the Malaysia Education Development Plan 2015-2025 (Higher Learning) to support this growth.

He added that KPT plays an important role in developing the innovation landscape in Malaysia and this is mentioned in the Leap 7: Innovation Ecosystem.

KPT's goal is to facilitate the development of an innovation ecosystem in the country's priority areas to increase economic growth and the well-being of the people, he said.

He added that to ensure sustainable growth in a fast but workable manner, this ecosystem requires a collaborative partnership between academia, industry, government and community.

"Only through such collaborative partnerships can the acceleration of ideas into commercialization be realized," he said.

He explained that the collaborative model across these entities: university academia, industry partners, government

agencies and society is the main support for the development and establishment of living labs at UMS.

"In this model, industry partners leverage academic capabilities to support their needs in producing more innovative and competitive products," he said.

Dr Kasim also said that the government is the key in preparing support and policies in managing the implementation of skills and innovative products to the community through this Living Lab.

"The idea to develop, to set up and to manage the Living Lab is not something new.

"At international level, the Living Lab is an open innovation ecosystem that focuses on users that integrates the process of concurrent research and innovation in the public-private-community sharing," he said.

In his speech, he also said that UMS has agreed to channel a RM500,000 fund for the use of the university's Living Lab.

He also informed that UMS has gotten the support from the Sabah government which channelled RM2 million for research in March 2023.

He added that parts of it will be the Living Lab fund.