



UMS FKJ staff and Gamalux Oils Sdn Bhd at the UMS FKJ building.

UMS, company to do research for DOBE

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) engineering faculty (FKJ) forged a cooperation with Gamalux Oils Sdn Bhd to carry out research for oil palm waste known as De-Oiled Bleaching Earth (DOBE).

FKJ dean, Professor Dr Ismail Saad said that the cooperation through a letter of intent by both parties will study and explore the use of DOBE in the construction sector.

He said preliminary studies conducted by FKJ researchers showed that DOBE has the potential to be used as a material in soil stabilisation and material to produce concrete.

"The use of DOBE as a material in the construction

industry is believed to be able to reduce DOBE waste produced in the production of palm oil and also have a positive impact on the environment.

"However, further research needs to be done to understand the implications of using DOBE in soil stabilisation and concrete production to ensure that the concrete produced meets the set standards," he said.

Ismail added that currently FKJ is actively conducting research involving waste materials such as plastic, tires and glass to be used as materials in the production of paver block bricks.

"FKJ has also established a research unit called the Green Materials and Advanced

Construction Technology Research Unit (GMACT) which focuses on research related to green materials for use in the construction industry," he said.

At the signing ceremony, FKJ was represented by Ismail and Gamalux Oils was represented by the Head of Factory Facilities, James Thiruchelvam.

Also present were Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Sabah Industrial Development and Research Department, Benedict Biso; head of Sustainability Division, Sabah Palm Oil Industrial Cluster (POIC) Port Environment, Aaron F. Sualim and FKJ Academic and International Deputy Dean, Prof Assoc Ts Dr Mohd Kamaruddin Abd Hamid.