

# UMS to cooperate with Japanese universities

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has the potential to create opportunities to cooperate with universities in Japan.

UMSVice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor said the Japanese Ambassador to Malaysia, Takahashi Katsuhiko, led a delegation to pay a courtesy visit to his office on Wednesday, which opened up room for discussions towards the cooperation.

"We had discussed several strategic plans during the meeting to solidify Japan and Sabah's relationship, especially regarding the perspective of higher learning.

"This is according to UMS' position as the only public university that was established in Sabah," he said.

According to Kasim, both parties also saw the potential that can be put into motion or continued by the Embassy itself as well as the involvement of related universities in Japan with UMS in further developing direct relations between Japan



Kasim (second left) presenting a souvenir to Takahashi.

and Sabah.

"This is particularly in cultural sharing, academic exchange (higher education) and also research oriented studies on tropical disease control, biodiversity and marine life," said Kasim.

Takahashi had also informed that Japan and Malaysia's relationship has been ongoing for 65 years so far

and the numerous two-way communications in various fields had strengthened the diplomatic bond between the two countries.

"Now this bond is even stronger through the relationship between Japanese universities and UMS," he said.

Earlier, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FPSK) UMS dean Professor Dr

Mohammad Saffree Jeffree, who was also present at the meeting, informed that an existing relationship has already been established with Nagasaki University, Japan for joint researches under the faculty's Borneo Medical and Health Research Center (BMHRC).

"One of those researches is related to tropical medical diseases such as Monkey Malaria,

arbovirus, heat adaptation and many more.

"The two universities have produced a number of joint activity outputs including high-impact publications, student and lecturer mobility, appointment of visiting professors, Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) grant applications, the establishment of satellite campuses in Nagasaki and UMS, and the organization of seminars scientific," he said.

UMS Borneo Marine Research Institute (IPMB) UMS director Associate Professor Ts Dr Sitti Raehanah Muhamad Shaleh also provided information on the history of the relationship between IPMB and universities in Japan since 1999.

According to Sitti, IPMB has been active in research and academic collaboration with several leading universities in Japan until now.

"Among them are Kindai University, Hiroshima University, Kagoshima

University, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT) and several aquaculture industries based in Tokyo, Osaka, Shikoku and Okayama.

"Among the forms of cooperation are the exchange of expertise between the two countries, industrial training programs for final-year students to Japan, scholarship sponsorship for UMS students and staff, as well as the organization of joint conferences and joint research between the two countries," she said.

Also present during the visit were First Secretary Consul of the Kota Kinabalu Consulate Office, Saito Hiroaki, Head of Consular Office in Kota Kinabalu, Shiho Kako, UMS Corporate Communication Center director Dr Jakaria Dasan, IPMB Deputy Director of Research and Innovation Associate Professor Dr Ching Fui Fui @ Faihana Ching Abdullah, and UMS Vice Chancellor's Special Officer Mohd Khairuddin Ahmad.