

UMS hosts Bumantara Seminar to boost ties with Indonesia

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KOTA KINABALU: A four-day Bumantara Seminar being hosted by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is aimed at strengthening bilateral ties with Indonesia through scholarly discussion.

"This seminar is part of our academic activity produced and implemented following the academic MoU with Universitas Nasional Indonesia (Unas) in June 2008," said UMS Associate Professor Dr. Kasim Mansur, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni).

"This is the second Bumantara Seminar, the first was hosted by Unas in June 2010," he said at the opening of the seminar, Wednesday, on behalf of UMS Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon.

"There is still a sense of uncertainty, lack of knowledge and understanding when it comes to bilateral relations between Malaysia and Indonesia.

"Hence, this seminar provides a space for scholarly discussion, which increases the purpose of spreading the knowledge and understanding in terms of politics, economics and socialising between both countries."

He said more academic collaboration programmes between UMS and UNAS will begin in the 2011/2012 Academic Session.

Among these will be the student mobility programme and research collaboration relating to the Sabah-Kalimantan border.