



Dr Kamaruzaman (left) and Dr Muhamad exchanging documents after signing the MoU.

## UMS and USIM to work together

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together in the development of their students and staff.

USIM Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Muhammad Muda said during a press conference soon after the signing ceremony, there are various stages to the MoU.

At the students level, there is the mobility programme where students from USIM and UMS can opt for the credit transfer programme and do one or two semesters in the other university.

Both universities will recognise the credit transfer programme in order for the students to graduate, he said, adding that the universities will also be carrying out student related activities.

"For lecturers as well as staff, we will be having exchange programmes so that they can get more exposure and experience in their working environment," he said.

Dr Muhamad said that for academicians of both universities, they can do joint research, joint publication and writing, joint seminar as well as other activities pertaining to staff and lecturers development.

His counterpart from UMS Prof Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon said that there were many niche areas in UMS where USIM can collaborate with in the aspect of approaches to students as well as research.

"In Sabah we are blessed with abundant natural resources and our research is towards the success and preservation of these resources," he said, adding that the three areas UMS and USIM can collaborate on are research in bio-technology, bio-tropics and marine as UMS is recognized for its research work in these fields.

Meanwhile, USIM Board of Director Chairman Tan Sri Dr Mohamad Yusof Md Noor said that out of the 20 public higher learning institutes in the country, USIM chose UMS because it considers the university a very special one.

This is because UMS means a lot to the development in Sabah in terms of social and economy, he said.

UMS, according to him, has become the focus of activities in anything related to social and economic development in the state.

"On that basis USIM thinks UMS deserves to be together through MoU as we witnessed today as UMS is the agent of changes not only in Sabah but also in neighbouring areas with the people coming to this campus not only from Sabah but also other parts of the country," he said and added that they have treated this campus as one of the most active research centres in Sabah.