## ICOMSA 2015 Open Ways to Discuss Blue Economy

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TUESDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH – More than 50 local and international participants took part in International Conference on Marine Science and Aquaculture (ICOMSA) organized by Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

The three days conference begins today will discuss challenges and opportunities in developing blue economy.

According to the Sabah Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry, Datuk Seri Panglima Yahya Hussin, developing blue economy with sustainable benefits will help strengthen Malaysia's ability in protecting the country's border, sources and the people.

"Protection to marine resources and national security were the major challenges that we face in order to preserve peace, prosperity and national security," he said.

His speech was read by Sabah Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry, Datuk Sairin Karno.

He also urged researchers to discuss issues on blue economy and collectively contribute in trying to tackle challenges hindering the country's development and economic growth and also human welfare.

Earlier, UMS Vice-Chancellor, Profesor Datuk Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah said the blue economy linked to the stability of marine ecosystem, and therefore health of blue economy will depend on the health of the ocean ecosystem.

ICOMSA 2015 will also cover discussion on ways to support activities that will improve aquatic ecosystem health in terms of biologically, culture and also economic welfare.–*ZMD (JA)* 

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