

## 11 Countries Join Third Country Training Programme Organised by UMS

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**FRIDAY, 19 AUGUST** – A total of 20 participants from 11 countries will take part in the third round of the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) 2016 in Sabah starting 8 September.

The 21-day programme organised by the Institute of Tropical Biology and Conservation (IBTP), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in collaboration with the State Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

UMS IBTP Director, Professor Dr. Charles S. Vairappan disclosed that the participants were from India,

Uganda, Botswana, South Africa, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines and Thailand.

“The programme includes formal classroom activities, video presentations, field trips to a variety of protected forest areas, interaction with the local communities in the rural and suburban protected areas and meeting with those involved with conservation efforts at grass root level.

“The training programme incorporates knowledge acquisition and skills related to integration, planning and financing, the implementation of research and education, park management and public awareness,” he said in a press conference held at IBTP Seminar Room, yesterday.

Dr. Charles hoped that through this programme participants would be able to enhance their knowledge and skills related to conservation management (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) and achieving the same for conservation purposes.

According to him, through the programme themed, “Biodiversity Integrated Course and Ecosystem Conservation Training”, participants would also be able to learn the experience from Sabah rangers in various aspects of wildlife and forest conservation.

Also present at the press conference were Senior Geologist of Natural Resources Office Sabah, Gerald Jetony and Chief Advisor of JICA, Hiroyuki Hatori. – *SS (fl)*