

## UMS-EcoHealth Agreement to Sponsor Three Postgraduate Students

Last Updated: Tuesday, 19 July 2016 09:31 | [Print](#) | Hits: 2225

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**MONDAY, 18 JULY** – Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) through its Health Research and Development Unit (DHRU) entered into an agreement with the exchange of documents with EcoHealth Alliance for sponsorship of UMS postgraduate students. The exchange of documents was held at the Executive Board Meeting Room, today.

The exchange of ‘Subcontract Award Agreement’ was presented

by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Dr. Shahril Yusof to the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak.

According to Professor Dr. Shahril, the sponsorship deal was to fund the three postgraduate students in the fields of Medicine and Health Sciences, as well as Humanities, Arts and Heritage.

“The sponsorship deal is worth RM291,852 that would cover the expenses of the three postgraduate students during their study. The current phase of this Subcontract Award Agreement covers the period from 1 January 2016 until 14 October 2016. It is expected that the agreement will be continued, covering the entire period of study of the postgraduates namely Amy Lim, Alice Mathews and Jimmy Lee,” he disclosed in a ceremony.

He added, the sponsorship of students by EcoHealth Alliance was one of the cooperation between UMS and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), based in New York, adding that other activities planned between these two organisations included research and publications, as well as educational seminars and workshops.

Meanwhile, Chief of DHRU, Dr. Sarma Aralas said, the project undertaken by DHRU and EcoHealth Alliance were ‘Infectious Disease Emergence and the Economics of Altered Landscapes (IDEEAL)’, aimed at studying the economic impact of changes in land use in Sabah.

“The project hopes to evaluate the best practices of land use changes that could be beneficial to both health and the environment,” he said.

DHRU is a multidisciplinary research unit at UMS to foster collaborative research among researchers in the fields of medicine, economic and social sciences. – *SS (fl)*