



Kamaruzaman (third left) exchanging documents with Green Leaf Synergy director Ramlan Ali at the event.

## UMS signs pact to commercialise Sabah seaweed

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) moved a step further in its research on seaweed with the signing of intellectual property licence agreement with three companies for the purpose of commercialising the product.

The three companies are Green Leaf Synergy Sdn Bhd, VC United Sdn Bhd and Sebangkat Reef Eco Plants Sdn Bhd.

UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon in disclosing this said the signing of the agreement allowed the three companies to utilise the university's seaweed planting technology.

"The technology involves the Eco-Friendly Tie-Tie, seaweed fertiliser, anchor and other facilities which were used by the UMS research team led by

Associate Professor Dr Shuhaimi Mohd Yasir," he said.

Kamaruzaman added that intellectual property was an important asset for the university and it would generate income if the product was successfully commercialised.

"UMS, overall, has successfully protected 44 intellectual properties be it in pattern, design and rights.

"Some of them have been valued and we hope to commercialise them soon," he said during a dinner in conjunction with UMS Researchers Award 2011, here, on Friday.

Last year, UMS was awarded for its Seaweed Mini Estate System for the Entry Point Project 3 under the Economic Transformation programme.

He said UMS was allocated RM10.4 million from various

ministries last year to carry out 40 new researches.

"Of the figure, a total of RM6 million was allocated for research and commercialisation of the seaweed through the Prime Minister's Department while RM1.2 million was sponsored by the private and international agencies," he said.

Kamaruzaman disclosed that UMS had also produced a total of 167 educational journals and was hoping more to be produced soon.

"Apart from the incentives, UMS is also offering seed money for researchers and funds for undergraduates to carry out their research projects," he said.

He also disclosed that UMS obtained eight golds, 11 silvers and seven bronzes in various design contests, held nationally and internationally.