

# China lecturers, students take part in AI camp in UMS

**TBP 25.08.2023 P.05**

**KOTA KINABALU:** A delegation of 52 lecturers and students from Wuyi University, China have participated in a two-week artificial intelligence (AI) summer camp in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

Aimed at promoting China-Malaysia educational exchange and AI development, the programme was the result of the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI) to establish cooperative ties between Wuyi University and UMS in 2017, facilitated by The Federation of Jiangmen Association Malaysia president Datuk Susan Wong Siew Guen.

Susan also helmed The Federation of Guangdong Associations Sabah, The United Sabah Chinese Communities Association of Kota Kinabalu (USCCA), The United Sabah Sze Yip Association, Sze Yi Association West Coast, Sabah and the board member of Wuyi University.

She has hosted a farewell dinner for the Wuyi University delegates, which was attended by UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Bin Hj Md Mansur, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for research and innovation, Prof Dr Rosalam Hj Sarbatly, Centre for Internationalisation and Global Engagement director Asso Prof Dr Wardatul Akmal Din, UMS Publishing director Asso Prof Dr Kenneth Teo Tze Kin and Engineering Faculty dean Asso Prof Dr Ismail Saad.

Susan said she was honoured to have connected Wuyi University and UMS in 2017 that led to the signing of the LOI on cooperation, marking the implementation of another programme under the Belt and



Susan (centre) with the delegates from Wuyi University, UMS and Sze Yi Association West Coast, Sabah.

Road Initiative in Sabah. Since then, both institutions have organised visits and exchange programmes, including the participation of eight UMS students to Wuyi University for a summer engineering training course led by Susan in 2018.

"Between Aug 11 to 26, 2019, the 56 lecturers and students from Wuyi University have participated in the Wuyi University-UMS AI Optimization Engineering Seminar."

However, she said the exchange was suspended when the Covid-19 pandemic broke out in 2020.

"I'm pleased to see that all of you have returned to Kota Kinabalu. It is a testament to our everlasting ties and strong passion in the pursuit of knowledge, research and development."

As an overseas Chinese with ancestral home in Taishan, Jiangmen, Susan expressed her honour to contribute to the exchange and development of

Jiangmen and Sabah.

She also praised both universities for having the foresight and locked in on AI as their main theme for exchange as AI has become a crucial technology that influences and guides the future development of human mankind.

"AI plays an important role in our daily lives and economic development," she said.

While talking to the students, she encouraged both universities to work hard in producing more technological talents in effort to expand the AI industry value chain.

She also hoped that Wuyi University lecturers and students would come to Sabah more often to promote bilateral exchanges and create more opportunities for cooperation between Jiangmen and Sabah.

"Young people hold the key to our future. And opportunities belong to those who are well prepared.

"I see an abundance of opportunities in you."

The AI summer camp held at UMS from Aug 10 to 25 was attended by 50 students from Wuyi University, who are mostly in their second and third year.

Meanwhile, Dr Kasim hoped to strengthen exchange and cooperation with Chinese universities.

He said the two-week course is a mobility student programme between UMS and Wuyi University, and hoped that there would be more similar programmes in the future.

He also hoped that the programme would enlighten the Chinese students on the local cultures and beauty of Sabah to enhance mutual understanding.

He added that UMS had conducted the programme in both Mandarin and English to eliminate the language barrier for Chinese students.

On the other hand, Dr Rosalam said Chinese students made up the majority of the exchange students in UMS, including the 50 students and two lecturers from Wuyi

University.

"We are honoured to organise the AI summer camp to provide technical training for electric, electronics and AI."

He said the AI summer camp activity started in 2018 but was suspended for three years due to the pandemic.

"We hope to organise more AI-related programmes in the future to enhance UMS' popularity and promote closer Malaysia-China ties."

Dr Rosalam continued to say that UMS actively organises short-term courses for international exchange students with foreign

universities in Japan and South Korea in various fields such as engineering technology, marine, forestry and biology.

He said the programme had attracted many international students and post-graduates to Sabah.

Nevertheless, he said Chinese students made up the most number, especially those from Wuyi University, thanks to Susan.

He also stressed that foreign students, especially China nationals, will not encounter language barrier when they further their studies or sign up for short-term courses in Sabah.

"Although the summer camp is mainly conducted in English, we have large numbers of Chinese in Sabah.

"Many of our lecturers can converse in Mandarin as well, and we do our best to enable Chinese students to communicate in both English and Mandarin to eliminate the language barrier."