



## UMS sees role of excellence in BIMP-EAGA

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) hopes to make its School of Business and Economics a hub of excellence among universities in the Bimp-Eaga region.

The school's dean, Dr. Kasim Haji Md Mansur, said the aspiration is to make UMS a centre of reference for discussion and studies on current business and economic issues that will benefit member countries of the region.

Towards this end he said a three-day Bimp-Eaga International Conference 2006 will be held here from Wednesday.

"The international event is actually jointly organised by the School of Business and Economics of UMS in collaboration with Sabah Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and Facilitation Centre of Bimp-Eaga Kota Kinabalu.

"The conference will be the best platform for participants to discuss and share knowledge on current issues related to development of the region," he said at a press conference Monday.

Higher Education Minister, Dato' Mustapa Mohamed will officiate at the international conference to be held at the UMS campus while the closing will be officiated at by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok.

"The aim of the conference is to provide opportunities for administrators, professionals, practitioners, academicians and university students among Bimp-Eaga members to share knowledge on current issues related to the the region.

By stimulating cross-disciplinary discussions and networking, he said participants could further enhance and enrich their knowledge towards the development of the region.

Dr. Kasim said papers at the conference will discuss various topics like foreign direct investment (FDI), networking, trade policy, governance, cross-border issues and labour mobility, among others. — Hayati Dzulkifli

## UMS offers Tourism Management course

KOTA KINABALU: Anyone interested to do a degree course on Tourism Management can now do so locally at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

Tourism Management is a new major being offered by its School of Business and Economics.

The school's dean, Dr. Kasim Md. Mansur said Monday that a total of 40 students will be registering for the new major early next month and they are expected to complete their studies in 2009.

"We proposed Tourism Management as a new field of study in the school two years ago as we see the need and good prospects for the nation.

"Only last week, the Ministry of Higher Education approved the new major to be offered by the school," he said.

Dr. Kasim said the school proposed the new major to provide for the workforce required by the tourism sector and help the government achieve its national mission on tourism under the Ninth Malaysia Plan. — HD