

USM in Danum rainforest research

KOTA KINABALU, Mon. – Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and the Royal Society are initiating a programme focussing on research in South-east Asia called the South East Asia Rainforest Research Programme (SEARRP).

Disclosing this at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both institutions today, UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Abu Hassan Othman said one of the research areas which will be brought up to an excellent status is the study on the tropical rainforest ecosystem.

"In Sabah, these researches have been mainly carried out in Danum Valley, one of the well known and best rainforest centres in South-east Asia," he said.

According to him, the UMS School of Science and Technology and the Tropical Biology and Conservation Unit have lecturers and researchers who, not only are interested, but are also experienced experts in doing such research.

Abu Hassan disclosed that both institutions have the will to promote research and has to a certain extent been collaborating doing research in the rainforest of South-east Asia.

"One of the best ways to formalise the relationship is through a mutual agreement," he said.

Under the agreement, both institutions could optimise the development of expertise by complementing or exchanging knowledge, based in Malaysia or in the United Kingdom.

"One of the obvious ways to achieve it is by collaborating in research and other specific activities such as seminars and conferences," he said.

The Royal Society is a United Kingdom-based academic institution which is more than a hundred years old.

Also present at the signing ceremony were the SEARRP Chairman Prof TH Clutton-Brock (FRS) and its Research Coordinator Dr Stephen Sutton.



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