

UMS cooperating with Indonesia, China universities

TBP 10.06.2023 P.07

KOTA KINABALU: University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has entered into a strategic cooperation with Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Salatiga, Indonesia.

The collaboration intent was sealed during a Letter of Intent (LoI) document signing ceremony between both parties at the UMS Chancellery Building.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Hj Mansor represented UMS in signing the LoI document, while UIN Salatiga was represented by its rector, Professor Dr Zakiyuddin Baidhawy.

Earlier, Kasim said the ties between both universities existed online.

"Hence, the visit by the UIN Salatiga delegates is a dynamic meeting, which can lead to further discussions related to the academic and research excellence of both universities.

"Both universities should forge more cooperations since Malaysia and Indonesia have a lot in common and are from the same clump," he said.

Kasim added the cooperation is an intelligent early step because more activities will be focused on the Borneo island when the Indonesia administration centre



Kasim (front, left) and Zakiyuddin (front, right) at the ceremony.

relocates to Kota Nusantara in Kalimantan later.

"I believe the intention of this cooperation will be followed with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and several other activities such as joint researches and matching grants. UMS has also for a long time established close cooperation with universities in Indonesia, especially universities in the Borneo Island.

"Most recently, we have also visited Tanri Abeng University, and we intend to cooperate and offer programs online," said Kasim.

He also thanked the Islamic Studies Faculty (FIS) and Internationalisation and Global Engagement Centre (PPPG) for efforts that led to the collaboration with UIN Salatiga.

Meanwhile, Zakiyuddin in his speech at the event informed that UIN Salatiga had just been upgraded from an institute to a full university a year ago.

"Thus, UIN Salatiga wants to continue expanding its wings through collaboration at the international level, as well as continuing to learn from other universities to increase the university's recognition and

accreditation. The university also aims to send 10 percent of its more than 300 students abroad through the mobility programme," he said.

Earlier, Zakiyuddin was also invited to deliver the Professor's Public Lecture titled "Strengthening Islamic Identity in Interaction with Multi-Religious Communities" at the UMS Islamic Center.

On Thursday, UMS and the East China Normal University (ECNU) on Thursday signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) for future cooperation.

Such future cooperation includes teachers and students exchange programmes, as well as cooperation in other sectors within the education framework.

This was unveiled during the signing ceremony in UMS, and it was witnessed by Federation of Chinese Associations Sabah (FCAS) President Tan Sri T.C Goh. FCAS coordinated the signing of LOI.

In his speech, Goh described such cooperation as a new milestone in education cooperation between Malaysia and China, and especially for Sabah's higher education sector.

He hoped such mutually beneficial cooperation can be

expedited after this.

In the signing ceremony, representing ECNU was its Vice Chancellor Zhou Aoying while UMS was represented by Kasim.

Goh also cordially welcomed the ECNU delegation to Sabah and wished them a fruitful exchange with their UMS counterparts. He noted that the two universities through the LOI agreed to undertake a long-term flexible education exchange programme which includes Chinese and English courses.

During the exchange session between ECNU and UMS, Zhou and Kasim hoped that cooperation between the two universities in various aspects can be gradually implemented to benefit both the academic staff and the students.

Among others, the LOI would facilitate cooperation in various education and research programmes, publication of academic journals and reports, to organize joint students development programmes, academic seminars, forums, targeted short-term academic training programmes, international online learning programmes, mobility scheme, community service activities, etc.

Also in attendance during the LOI signing ceremony were several senior academic staff of ECNU including Zhou Rong, the Head of the Confucius Academy, Zhang Jian-Ming, Professor at the School of International Chinese Studies, Wu Zhiyong, Professor at the School of Mass Communication and Xu Chen, Coordinator of the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange Programme, while senior academic staff from UMS included Director of Centre for International and Global Engagement, Prof Madya Dr Wardatul Akman Din, Dean of Centre for the Promotion of knowledge and Language Learning Prof Madya Dr Lai Yew Ming, Director of Confucius Institute Prof Dr Chong Khim Phin, Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities Prof Madya Dr Asmady Idris, Senior Lecturer Biotechnology Research Institute Prof Madya Dr Wilson Yong, Deputy Director Research and Innovation, Borneo Marine Research Institute Prof Madya Dr Faihana Ching Abdullah and Dr Nurzhafarina binti Othman of International Relation Coordinate, Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation.