

UMS identifies 20 'spectacular' geological sites for conservation

By NIKKO FABIAN

KOTA KINABALU: A team of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) geologists carrying out a survey throughout the state has identified more than 20 "spectacular" geological sites that are worth conserving.

Among the sites earmarked for conservation are an active mud volcano at Tingkayu in Lahad Datu, mud flow at Tabin and Lahad Datu and fossil-rich limestone outcrop in Batu Puteh, Kinabatangan.

Others include a primeval volcanic cone at Bukit Tiger in Tawau, Maliau Falls at Maliau Basin in the south interior and fossil-rich limestone outcrop at Pulau Banggi, Kudat.

Also in the list are a waterfall that flows over basalt rock larva at Sungai

Baliojong in Tandek, Kota Marudu and a fan-like rock formation about half the size of a football field at Pantai Bak Bak in Kudat.

UMS vice-chancellor Prof. Tan Sri Dr Abu Hassan Othman in disclosing this yesterday said the sites were currently being characterised and evaluated for their intrinsic value and possible contribution towards tourism.

"I am happy to note that geologists from UMS have been actively involved in promoting the concept of geotourism," he said in his speech at the International Dialogue on Earth Heritage Conservation at the university's campus here.

The speech was read out by UMS deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Development), Prof. Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon.

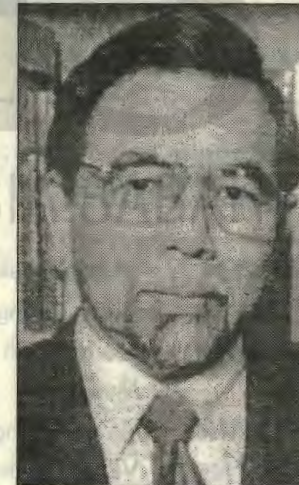
The dialogue was held in conjunc-

tion with the three-day celebration of the International Year of Mountains by the Malaysian chapter of UNESCO.

Dr Abu Hassan said that besides geologists from UMS, others in the team were officials from the Department of Mineral and Geoscience, Sabah Parks and Sabah Foundation.

Today's dialogue is expected to formulate earth heritage conservation strategy, which will be tabled at the three-day International Conference on Culture and Science of Mountains at Kinabalu Park in Kundasang.

The conservation strategy would then be adopted and become an integral part of the Kinabalu Declaration on sustainable mountain development, to be proclaimed by Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat on Wednesday.



DR. ABU... sites being characterised.

N.Sabah Times 9/7/02