

UMS forms an environmental research and policy group

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has formed an environmental research and policy group recently.

The group, formed by the university's School of Social Science is open to academic scholars, public officials and civil society community, a statement by UMS said yesterday.

It will be a forum for sharing knowledge and experience, generate new knowledge and to affect social and policy changes.

And, its main objective is to systemically study interactions between natural and social system in

shaping local and global environments.

The group will also study formulation and implementation of local, national and international policies that have significant environmental consequences. Besides that, it will also use natural and social scientific knowledge to shape public policies in order to conserve nature and prevent further environmental degradation.

The group has already identified three interrelated themes as its initial focus, such as widespread forest/land conversion and degradation as well

as its effects on marine ecosystem.

Its interest is expected to evolve and reflect the interest of its members and therefore membership of individuals from non-governmental and governmental organisations are welcomed, as they can act in their individual capacities.

Membership is free. More information can be acquired from Associate Professor of School of Social Science at 320102 ext 1836 and Kelvin Kueh of the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation at 320000 ext 2386.