

UMS, Erciyes University launch Sabah chapter of Msia-Turkey relations

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), through the International Relations Programme of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSK), hosted a visit from Professor Dr Omer Kurtbag of Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkey, from Aug 25 to 29.

The Dean of FSSK, Professor Dr Asmady Idris, stated that the visit aimed to evaluate the International Relations Programme, including its course structure, teaching staff, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, as well as the facilities provided, to enhance the programme's quality to meet international standards.

"Professor Omer's visit also opens opportunities for academic collaboration and the exchange of students and lecturers, thereby strengthening UMS's internationalisation agenda.

"His views and suggestions are highly valuable in the faculty's efforts to improve the quality of teaching and research," he said in a statement here in Wednesday.

During a courtesy call to the UMS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor, both parties discussed efforts to upgrade the existing Letter of Intent (LoI) to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between



Professor Dr Omer Kurtbag (centre) with UMS Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor during the courtesy call.

UMS and Erciyes University.

The session also witnessed the official launch of Malaysia-Turkey Relations: Sabah Chapter, a significant achievement in the academic and cultural relations between the two countries.

As part of the programme, Professor Omer also met with two second-year students from the UMS International Relations Programme who have received Türkiye Scholarships (TIES) to participate in a short-term academic exchange programme in Turkey.

He also delivered a lecture titled "The Evolution of Turkish

Foreign Policy in the Middle East and Asia: Recalibrating Strategic Depth," which was well-received by students and lecturers, providing new perspectives on Turkey's strategic approach to global politics.

"UMS International Relations graduates have shown high employability, with the majority securing employment in the public and private sectors in recent years," added Professor Omer in his closing remarks.

Also in attendance were postgraduate students and members of the International Relations Club (HA15) FSSK.