



Prof Datuk Dr Kasim (third right) and Assoc Prof Dr Hongo Shun (third left) exchanging MoU documents.

UMS expands global network through collaboration with RIHN Kyoto

TBP 24.09.2025 P.02

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), through its Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (IBTP), has further expanded its global network by sealing a research and academic collaboration with the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Kyoto, Japan.

The partnership was formalised during a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony held at IBTP.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Hj Mansor signed the MoU on behalf of the university, while RIHN was represented by Assoc Prof Dr Hongo Shun, project leader of the Fashloks – Sustainable Hunting Project.

Describing the collaboration as a strategic step forward, Kasim

said it would strengthen UMS's role as "The Brain of Borneo."

"Through this MoU, both institutions will deepen joint research cooperation in biodiversity and conservation, while promoting academic exchanges," he said.

"This agreement not only symbolises the formal partnership between the two institutions but also reflects our shared commitment to advancing knowledge, research and innovation."

He added that IBTP has already established strong ties with several leading Japanese universities, including Kyoto University, Kagoshima University, Rakuno Gakuen University and Hokkaido University, with the University of the Ryukyus soon to join the

list.

"This MoU is expected to act as a catalyst for deeper cooperation in biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability and impactful research development benefiting regional and global communities.

"We hope it will lead to high-impact publications, the hosting of international seminars and conferences, and staff mobility programmes to strengthen knowledge and expertise exchange," Kasim said.

Also present at the ceremony were UMS Registrar Luqman Ridha Anwar, IBTP Director Assoc Prof Dr Fiffy Hanisdah Saikim, and Assoc Prof Dr Nahoko Tokuyama, Deputy Project Leader of Fashloks – Sustainable Hunting Project.