

UMS hosts International Leadership Conference on AI era

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), in collaboration with the Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT), recently organised the International Empowering Leadership Conference 2.0 themed "Empowering the New Era of Leadership with Artificial Intelligence" at the Grand Ballroom, Shangri-La Tanjung Aru.

The two-day conference brought together leaders from

academia, industry, government and civil society to discuss the role of leadership in the age of artificial intelligence (AI). Among the participating technology giants were Huawei, Toyota, Aerodyne, Google Cloud and Indah Water Konsortium.

In his keynote address, Higher Education Minister Dato' Sri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir said Malaysia remains committed to developing an AI ecosystem grounded in ethics,

sustainability and inclusivity.

He also announced the rollout of **Scopus AI** across all 20 public universities, making Malaysia the first country in the Asia-Pacific to implement the research technology nationwide.

"The National AI Roadmap 2030 outlines the vision of positioning Malaysia as an AI Nation.

This vision centres on harnessing artificial intelligence to improve citizens' quality of life, spur innovation and reform

government administration," he said.

Throughout the conference, participants were exposed to four key pillars of AI-era leadership: leadership culture, technology, environmental-social-governance (ESG) principles and ethical leadership.

In his closing address, UMS registrar Luqman Ridha Anwar stressed the importance of adaptive leadership in navigating

present-day uncertainties.

"In an era of rapid technological advancement, adaptive leadership is not merely reactive but proactive, values-driven and forward-looking.

"The ability to listen, learn and lead effectively is key to success. I hope this conference will act as a catalyst for new ideas, cross-border collaborations and the responsible adoption of AI," he said.

Luqman added that UMS remains committed to serving as a hub for dialogue, research and leadership development through strategic partnerships with AKEPT under the support of the Ministry of Higher Education.

Also present at the conference were UMS Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Hj Mansor and UMS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor Ir. Dr Rosalam Hj Sarbatly.