



Kasim (second right) officiating the UMS Academic Week 2025.

UMS academics urged to master AI for ethical and innovative teaching

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KOTA KINABALU: Academics must equip themselves with technological expertise and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-related skills to meet the challenges of the current AI era, especially within higher education.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor said AI is no longer a technology of the future but a present reality that influences daily life — from research laboratories to administrative systems and lecture halls.

"AI opens a new chapter in how knowledge is delivered and accessed while enhancing the quality of teaching, research and personalised learning," he said when officiating the UMS Academic Week 2025 organised by the Centre for Academic Development and Excellence (PPKA) here.

Kasim reminded academics to

master AI wisely and ethically so it truly benefits students and society.

"As academics, we are not only transmitters of knowledge but also shapers of future thinking. Therefore, technological mastery must be accompanied by moral and ethical values as outlined in the National Education Philosophy," he said.

He added that producing quality graduates requires balancing academic excellence with human values so they can become professionals of integrity who are both technologically literate and morally grounded.

Commenting on the annual UMS Academic Week, Kasim said it reflects the university's commitment to educational excellence driven by innovation and technology.

"October 5 is a meaningful day for all academics — a day to honour their tireless intellectual

contributions that uplift the nation's higher education to a global level," he said.

He added that the programme serves as a platform to evaluate, appreciate and strengthen the role of academics in shaping the future of higher education and national development.

This year's theme, 'Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Higher Education', aligns with current needs that demand intellectual agility, strong leadership and continuous innovation.

Also present were Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) chief executive officer Prof Dato Dr Mohammad Shatar Sabran, who delivered the Wacana Akademik address; UMS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) Prof Dr Rossita Shapawi; UMS Registrar Luqman Ridha Anwar; and PPKA Director Dr Denis Andrew D. Lajium.