

UMS stresses inclusive tech innovation

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has called for technology-driven innovation in higher education to be firmly grounded in inclusivity and student wellbeing, ensuring that no one is left behind as universities accelerate digital transformation.

Speaking at the opening of the National Council of Deans of Education of Malaysian Public Universities (MEDC) 2025 on Wednesday, UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor said the nation's push towards digital education must remain human-centred.

"We must ensure that technological innovation aligns with inclusivity, so that no student is left behind and their wellbeing is always protected," he said.

He welcomed delegates from across Malaysia, noting that their presence reflected a shared commitment to strengthening the country's higher education landscape. The seminar, themed Digital Era Education Transformation: Innovation, Inclusivity and Wellbeing, invited participants to reassess how universities could integrate technology without compromising values, ethics and social responsibility.

Kasim stressed that digital transformation must "go beyond new tools," highlighting the importance of empowerment and character development.

"Digital transformation is not just about introducing new technologies but about empowering individuals, shaping values and improving the quality of the learning experience," he explained.

He reminded education leaders that their challenge is to ensure digitalisation enriches learning rather than distancing students from authentic human connections.

"Our challenge is to ensure that digitalisation enriches learning without neglecting humanity, ethics or social wellbeing," he said.

Prof Kasim also highlighted the shared vision between UMS, MEDC and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), describing the collaboration as a crucial step towards a resilient and future-ready education ecosystem.

"Through this collaboration, we are building a competitive, equitable and responsive education system," he added.

He expressed pride in UMS's Faculty of Psychology and Education, as well as the Faculty of Sports Science and Recreation, for hosting the seminar. Addressing participants, Prof Kasim encouraged them to use the platform to forge new partnerships and exchange insights.

"Make full use of this valuable space to collaborate and spark new initiatives," he urged.

He concluded with hope that the dialogue throughout the seminar would continue to inspire universities nationwide.

He also reaffirmed that UMS remains committed to driving inclusive, ethical and student-centred digital advancement in Malaysian higher education, ensuring that innovation benefits all learners. The two-day seminar was also attended by keynote speaker, Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dzulkifli Abdul Razak.



Kasim (third right) presenting a souvenir to Dzulkifli.