

UMS to host BIMP-EAGA International conference June 21-23

KOTA KINABALU: Some 300 delegates are expected to attend the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) International Conference at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) from June 21 to 23.

UMS School of Business and Economics dean Dr Hj Kasim Hj Md Mansur said this is the first time his faculty will host the event, which is jointly organised with the Facilitation Centre of BIMP-EAGA Kota Kinabalu and the Sabah Economic Planning Unit.

"Through this endeavour, we hope to gain more academic research from business operators in the (BIMP-EAGA) region," he said at a press conference on the event yesterday.

"We plan to make this faculty as a part of the BIMP-EAGA so we can be more sensitive to development in the area and also become a hub for producing business owners capable of addressing issues related to the economy," he added.

So far some 113 delegates have registered for the two-and-a-half day conference, where 76 of them are speakers from various participating countries.

The bulk of the participants,

comprising students, business owners and lecturers, are Malaysians (87) while 12 are from the Philippines, four from Australia, three from Pakistan, two each from Gambia and Indonesia, while Japan and Vietnam are sending one delegate each.

Minister of Higher Education Datuk Mustapa Mohamed is expected to officially open the event at the UMS Chancellor's Hall on June 21, while Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman will be the guest of honour at the welcoming dinner at Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort (STAR) later in the evening.

The conference, themed "Enhancing Business and Economic Sustainability", is sponsored by the Sabah Tourism Board, Tourism Malaysia, Integrated Environmental Consultants Sdn Bhd (IEC Malaysia), the Kinabalu City Bird Sanctuary and host UMS.

The BIMP-EAGA encompasses the entire Brunei sultanate, 10 provinces in the Indonesian islands of Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku and Irian Jaya, the Malaysian states of Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan, and Mindanao and Palawan in the Philippines.