

UMS as referral centre for BIMP-EAGA studies

NST 21.06.2006 P. 3

By KAMARUDDIN LIUSIN

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) wants to become the referral centre for studies related to the BIMP-EAGA (Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines – East Asean Growth Area) sub-regional grouping.

UMS School of Business and Economics dean Dr Kasim Md Mansur said such a centre, which does not exist yet, would benefit the member countries.

“Issues related to BIMP-EAGA have been much discussed in the last few years, but not much has been achieved.

“The centre would facilitate discussions and studies on such issues as the sub-grouping’s economic integration, education, ethnicity, socio-politics, immigration,



UMS Business and Economics dean Dr Kassim Md Mansur (right)

foreign direct investment, security, tourism, trade policy/governance and labour mobility,” he said here yesterday.

UMS academics would cooperate with the private sector to make the proposal a reality, he said, adding UMS already has a database

on the member countries.

The centre would also look at a student exchange programme for the sub-regional grouping, although an

informal programme already exists among UMS, Mindanao State University in the Philippines, Borneo University in Kalimantan, Indonesia, Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

There have already been informal discussions on the possibility of a student and lecturer exchange programme among the universities, and several students from Kalimantan are already doing post-graduate courses at UMS, he added.

The school is hosting a BIMP-EAGA conference on June 21-23 themed ‘Enhancing Business and Economic Sustainability’.

BIMP-EAGA was launched in 1994 to develop the sub-region by re-establishing and strengthening historical, cultural and trade links between the member countries.