



The seminar in progress. (Inset) Phyllis: Other things to mind about.

# UMS students explore employability

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KOTA KINABALU: Students of the new Hospitality Management Bachelors' Degree Programme at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) organised a seminar, Monday, to explore what is expected of them when they hit the job market.

Entitled "*Am I Presentable to You?*" the seminar touched on communication, self presentation and grooming, points rarely paid attention to by undergraduates but which are crucial during job interviews.

The seminar vice-director, Phyllis Philip Lee, a student of the Programme, said the event was organised by the students for the students.

"This is the first such seminar in the university and the first seminar organised by students of the new Programme.

"The seminar was part of our project under the Event Management elective course we are taking. The plus factor is we are also helping UMS students prepare themselves for

employment with the soft skills we are learning at the seminar," she said.

Phyllis said the seminar indirectly helps the university improve its graduates' employability.

A graduate's educational attainment is not the only criteria that prospective employers look for.

There are other things to mind about, such as one's body language, which experts say account for 55 per cent of one's effectiveness in a job interview, while words and how one utters the words account for only seven and 38 per cent, respectively.

"These are the things we want to learn in the seminar. Organising the seminar not only helps us students improve ourselves. We also get marks for the elective course with the good work we are doing," she said.

The speakers invited to talk at the seminar were experts in their trade, Phyllis said.

The first speaker was Daphne Iking, an

NTV7 presenter, who talked on personal grooming.

The second speaker was Keith William Pointer, General Manager of Beringgis Beach Resort, who talked on self-esteem and presentation.

The third speaker was motivational speaker from Singapore, Siti Hamidah Sheikh Abdullah Bahashwan.

The seminar was launched by Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor.

In his speech, Kamaruzaman said the younger generation nowadays were mostly not presenting themselves well to the world.

"Participants will be able to obtain knowledge from this seminar on how to present themselves to the world, how to dress and how to communicate.

"Non-presentable graduates are also one of the major reasons that leads to high unemployment of graduates," he said.