

UMS to do research on Long Pasia folks



Mohd Noh (3rd left) and Mudin (3rd right) at the MoU signing witnessed by the UMS delegation and local residents

NST 14.12.2006 P. 4

By FLORIETA DIET

SIPITANG: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will carry out research into various aspects of Kampung Long Pasia, a village of some 500 mainly Lundayeh people about 124km from here and near the border with Sarawak and Kalimantan.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed yesterday between UMS, represented by its Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin, and the local community represented by village head Mudin Sia.

Under the MoU, UMS will carry out research on socio-economic and cultural aspects as well as education and community health in the village.

The project is the start of UMS' relationship with the surrounding border area, Mohd Noh said, adding the first phase will be completed in 2010.

"The MoU shows our commitment to carry out research based on the needs of our academics and to contribute to community development in the area.

"We don't want a situation where the vil-

lagers' condition remains unchanged after the research is completed," he said.

One area of research will be sports development in the village, which has produced several notable footballers especially from the Laban family.

To facilitate its efforts, UMS will build a RM50,000 research centre in the village.

"When we have adequate data, we will try to help develop the community through income-generation activities including eco-tourism.

"We don't want development to bring changes that the local residents do not like," he said, citing the low rates of smoking and drug addiction among locals.

Also present were UMS registrar Helaladin Mohd Dahalan, bursar Hj Rizal Othman, Medicine dean Prof Dr Osman Ali, Education and Social Development dean Assoc. Prof. Dr Zulkifli Mohamed, research coordinator Dr Ismail Ali and Tropical Biology and Conservation Institute deputy director Dr Idris Abdul Said.

UMS also presented 12,000 fish fry for the residents of Long Pasia and Long Mio.