

UMS strengthens Malaysia-Türkiye education diplomacy

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has strengthened its internationalisation agenda with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Türkiye's Erciyes University (ERÜ) during an official visit by the university's delegation to the republic.

The MoU was signed by UMS vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor and ERÜ rector Prof Dr Fatih Altun, paving the way for strategic cooperation in teaching and learning, joint research, as well as student and academic staff mobility, particularly in the disciplines of social sciences and international relations.

The initiative is spearheaded by the International Relations Programme of UMS' Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) as an initial step towards the implementation of various joint academic activities, including seminars, scholarly

lectures and co-publications.

According to Kasim, UMS is committed to expanding academic engagement with Türkiye, including efforts to introduce the Turkish language as a Third Language course at FSSH.

"UMS views the Turkish language as a strategic investment in international education, as it is becoming increasingly relevant in the context of diplomacy and international relations.

This initiative not only empowers students with new foreign language skills, but also supports studies in international relations, diplomacy and regional studies, thereby enhancing graduates' employability at the global level," he said.

The UMS working visit to Türkiye included a courtesy call on the Embassy of Malaysia in Ankara; academic presentations by UMS lecturers; organisation of a mini exhibition introducing

Malaysia, Sabah, and UMS; as well as a benchmarking visit to the ERÜ Faculty of Medicine Hospital.

In addition, the UMS academic programme at ERÜ was further enlivened by the sharing of experiences from two UMS exchange students currently pursuing their studies in Türkiye under sponsorship from the Turkish government.

The UMS delegation also undertook an academic visit to Istanbul University, led by the FSSH dean Prof Dr Asmady Idris, to explore further collaboration opportunities in political science, international relations, and the joint organisation of seminars.

UMS, in a statement, said the signing of the MoU reflects its continued commitment to leveraging the close Malaysia-Türkiye relationship, while strengthening the university's role as a competitive institution on the international stage.