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UMS promotes research-driven solutions through global collab

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) reinforced its commitment to high-impact research by bringing together researchers, academics, industry practitioners and policymakers from Malaysia and abroad at the inaugural International Conference on Economics and Business Case Studies (ICEBCS) 2026.

Organised by the Centre for Economic and Policy Development under UMS' Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy (FPEP), the conference served as a platform for knowledge sharing, research presentations and collaboration among universities, industry players and policymakers to strengthen sustainable economic development.

UMS vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor said quality research must be translated into practical solutions to help countries navigate increasingly complex global economic uncertainties.

"Strategic collaboration between universities, industry and government must be strengthened so that research findings can be utilised in

policymaking and in developing solutions that contribute to national development," he said.

His speech at the hybrid conference, held at the UMS Library Auditorium and streamed via Teh Tarik TV's YouTube platform was delivered by UMS deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof Ir Dr Rosalam Sarbatly.

Kasim said the inaugural international conference successfully attracted hundreds of presenters and participants from various countries, covering disciplines such as economics, business, finance, accounting, management, entrepreneurship, tourism and sustainable development.

Among the key highlights was a forum on economic and business resilience amid geopolitical uncertainty, moderated by Dr Izaan Jamil. The panel featured Sabah Bumiputera Chamber of Commerce president Datuk Mohd Hasnol Ayub, alongside Dr Saizal Pinjaman and Dr Janifal Alipal.

Discussions also focused on Sabah's economic challenges, the role of the private sector, and the significance of collaboration

between academia, industry and government in formulating more resilient solutions.

A special recording of Teh Tarik TV's podcast discussing current economic issues was also held to broaden public access to academic discourse through a more inclusive platform.

Kasim said the organisation of ICEBCS 2026 reflected UMS' ongoing commitment to strengthening its research ecosystem while expanding international collaborative networks.

The event also witnessed the launch of three academic publications by UMS researchers: 'Green Economics: Integrating Behavioural Insights for Sustainable Decision-Making' by Professor Dr Caroline Geetha; 'Insights from Cross-Border Trade and Islamic Economy: A Study of Indonesia and Malaysia' by Associate Professor Dr Suddin Lada; and 'Informal Economies in BIMP-EAGA: Contribution, Challenges and Facilitation' by Dr Saizal Pinjaman.

Also present was Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sabah branch rector Associate Professor Dr Rozita @ Uji Mohammed.



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SUMMARIES

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