

Sabah to strengthen marine research with China

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KOTA KINABALU: Sabah is committed to strengthening marine research, scientific collaboration and the development of the Blue Economy with China. Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk James Ratib said Sabah is blessed with rich marine resources and more than 1,400 kilometres of coastline.

"Through the Sabah Maju Jaya Development Plan, the State Government is committed to positioning Sabah as Malaysia's Blue Economy hub by promoting sustainable ocean development, innovation and scientific research," he said. His speech was delivered by Assistant Minister Jordan Jude Ellron at the welcoming ceremony for Research Vessel Tan Kah Kee from Xiamen University during its open day at Kota Kinabalu Port.

James expressed appreciation to all partners involved, including the Sabah Maju Jaya Secretariat (SSMJ), Xiamen University, Sabah Ports, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), the Sabah Fisheries Department (SFD) and supporting agencies for making the programme a success.

He said the visit reflected the growing collaboration between Malaysia and China in education, science, technology and marine research.

The vessel is equipped with advanced facilities for research on marine biodiversity, fisheries, climate change, oceanography and seabed mapping.

He said findings from the research would contribute to better management of Sabah's marine resources and support evidence-based policymaking.

James also welcomed the participation of officers from SFD as well as academic staff and students from UMS, in the vessel's scientific expedition.

He described it as an important opportunity to strengthen local expertise and promote future international research collaboration.

James encouraged students visiting the vessel to explore marine science and innovation, expressing hope that more young Sabahans would pursue careers in science, technology and research.

He reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to strengthening education, research and innovation through strategic partnerships with local and international institutions.



Jordan (fourth left), and guests launching the Research Vessel Tan Kah Kee open day.