



07 AUG, 2026

Research vessel Tan Kah Kee marks first Sabah port call

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



Page 1 of 2

Research vessel Tan Kah Kee marks first Sabah port call

Jonathan Nicholas

KOTA KINABALU: Research Vessel Tan Kah Kee made its historic first port call in Sabah at Kota Kinabalu Port yesterday, marking a milestone in regional marine science collaboration and education.

The arrival of the vessel, part of Xiamen University's flagship XMU@Sea programme, was commemorated with a Public Open Day attended by State Secretary Datuk Zainudin Aman and Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Kota Kinabalu Dr Zhu Xinglong.

Sabah Minister of Education, Science and Technology Datuk James Ratib was represented by his Assistant Minister Jordan Jude Ellron, who officiated the event.

Jordan said the vessel represents world-class scientific capability and provides a platform for multidisciplinary marine research covering areas such as biodiversity, fisheries resources, climate change and ocean mapping.

"Sabah, with more than 1,400 kilometres of coastline and rich marine biodiversity, has immense potential to advance its blue economy agenda through science, innovation and sustainable ocean management," he said in his speech.

He added that the



Jordan (centre) cuts the ribbon to officiate the event.

initiative aligns with the state government's vision of positioning Sabah as a regional leader in marine research and sustainable ocean development through strong international collaboration.

Meanwhile, Xiamen University Malaysia president Wang Ruifang described the vessel's arrival as a historic occasion that coincided with two milestones—the university's 10th anniversary in Malaysia and 80 years of marine science development at Xiamen University.

"The Research Vessel Tan Kah Kee symbolises the enduring friendship between China

and Malaysia and our shared maritime heritage along the Maritime Silk Road," she said.

Wang said the XMU@Sea programme serves as a mobile classroom and research platform, connecting scientific exploration with public engagement while promoting awareness of ocean sustainability.

More than 30 faculty members and students from Xiamen University's main campus are currently aboard the vessel, which will continue its journey to Port Klang after its Kota Kinabalu stop.

Participants from 13

universities and institutions, including Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), the Sabah Fisheries Department, Indonesia's IPB University and Thailand's Chulalongkorn University, will join the next phase of the voyage for a deep-sea scientific expedition and experiential learning programme.

Jordan said Sabah would be represented in the expedition by officers from the Fisheries Department as well as academic staff and students from UMS, describing it as a valuable opportunity to build local expertise and strengthen research capacity.



07 AUG, 2026

Research vessel Tan Kah Kee marks first Sabah port call

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



SUMMARIES

KOTA KINABALU: Research Vessel Tan Kah Kee made its historic first port call in Sabah at Kota Kinabalu Port yesterday, marking a milestone in regional marine science collaboration and education. The arrival of the vessel, part of Xiamen University’s flagship XMU@Sea programme, was commemorated with a Public Open Day attended by State Secretary Datuk Zainudin Aman and Consul General of the People’s Republic of China in Kota Kinabalu Dr Zhu Xinglong.