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UMS, SPA sign LOI to collaborate on Sabah's water-sector challenges

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UMS and SPA representatives after signing the Letter of Intent (LOI).

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Faculty of Engineering and the Sabah Plumber Association (SPA) signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) on Oct 22 to explore cooperation in research, innovation, professional development and sustainable water technologies.

The LOI was signed at Galeri Majlis, UMS Chancellery Building, by Faculty Dean Assoc Prof Ir Dr Abu Zahrim Yaser and SPA President Dr Carmen Wong, covering five areas: teaching and learning, research and innovation, commercialisation, corporate social responsibility, and knowledge and technology transfer.

Proposed initiatives include internships, industrial attachments and technical visits for UMS students and staff, training and workshops for SPA members, and opportunities for industry practitioners to contribute to university teaching, alongside joint research, testing and demonstrations in water supply, water efficiency, sanitation and sustainable plumbing technologies.

Dr Wong said stronger ties between academia and industry could help translate knowledge into practical solutions for Sabah, adding that water infrastructure was fundamental to public health and the State's future development.

UMS and SPA also preparing to hold World Plumbing Day Sabah 2027 at UMS from April 8 to 10, featuring technical seminars, technology exhibitions, and more.