

# UMS to adopt 'Look East' policy says new VC

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will adopt the 'Look East' policy to improve its work culture, ethics and discipline.

UMS vice chancellor, Prof Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah said, the policy implemented by former Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamed in 1982 would be inculcated in the campus.

"We will take the effort to look East in developing our human capital, maybe we will send our staff and officers to Japan or Korea from time to time to learn their work culture, ethics and discipline," said Dr Harun.

"This will be the approach that I will emphasise during my tenure as vice chancellor. Hopefully, with the support from the deputy vice chancellors, deans, registrar and UMS citizens, we could move towards in this direction," he said.

He continued: "We can learn a lot by looking East. I went to Japan and Korea many times before and saw it myself and we want our staff to get the exposure that they never experienced before.

"So that they could appreciate and understand the discipline, ethics and values of the Japanese and Koreans, so that we could work harder and be more disciplined."

He said this during a press conference after delivering his maiden policy speech entitled

'Promote Excellence Together in One Direction and Purpose' at the UMS chancellery hall here yesterday.

Dr. Harun was appointed the fourth vice chancellor of UMS last week replacing Datuk Prof Dr. Kamaruzaman Ampon, whose term of three year plus an extended one year had expired.

He emphasised that UMS would play a role to empower its research on the state's rich natural resources such as seaweed, aquaculture and oil palm so that the university could become a reference centre for these resources.

Besides that, he said the management of UMS Link Centre for Professional Development, a subsidiary of UMS that provides off campus programmes and involved in sea-



Dr. Harun being greeted by a student after delivering his speech

weed cultivation, would be upgraded to further improve its income generation.

"We will draw up a systematic framework to improve our communication so that we could move in concerted efforts

and create more impact on our products," he said.

He stressed that UMS would capitalize on its beautiful scenery to generate income where it has the view of Mount Kinabalu, forest and waters.

Furthermore, they also won the national-level landscape competition.

"We will discuss with the tour operators and work out a package to promote educational tour in UMS," he added.