

UMS, Taiwan varsity to do joint ventures

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By Murib Morpi

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has sealed an agreement with a Taiwan-based university for collaborative efforts in research, academic mobility and student exchange.

Disclosing this yesterday, UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said UMS inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST) to pave the way for future joint ventures including in the field of sustainable agriculture.

Dr Mohd Harun said he also hoped the agreement will see intensified collaborative efforts in wildlife conservation, food science and forestry with NPUST, which was already working with UMS in several researches.

"On top of these areas, UMS also



UMS vice-chancellor Prof Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah (third left) exchanging documents with National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST) president Prof Dr Mike Yuan Kuang Guu (second right) after the MoU signing ceremony yesterday.

hopes to see NPUST participating strongly in our local resource-based research activities related to oil palm, aquaculture and seaweeds, environmental sustainability and oil and gas," he added.

Dr Harun and NPUST president Prof Dr Mike Yuan Kuang Guu signed the agreement in a ceremony held at the UMS campus here yesterday.

"We are looking towards the future for closer ties, we see a lot of potential with NPUST. Following the MoU we will intensify activities with them, first in commercialization which

is one of their main strengths.

"They are capable of finding their own resources and funding, so that is what we want to see and learn from them. And I can see that they are also strong in agriculture, and we will send our staff and lecturers to see what we can collaborate in this field with them," he said.

Meanwhile, Guu said NPUST has extensive experience in agriculture, having evolved from a small agriculture institute in 1924 to an internationally known university offering wider range of fields today.

"We started going into

agriculture more than 80 years ago so we have accumulated a lot of experience in this field, like in food processing and agricultural produce, and animal reproduction and even aquaculture," he said.

Guu added NPUST has a lot to offer and is eager to learn and benefit from the collaboration with its Sabah partner, which is the second major university it has worked with in Malaysia.

Apart from agriculture-related studies, he said there were also many potential fields that can be discussed with UMS, such as engineering.