



The signing of the MoU between UMS and National Pingtung University of Science and Technology.

UMS and Taiwan varsity sign MoU on exchange of students

DE 31-07-2012 4

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KOTA KINABALU: Malaysia and Taiwan signed a Statement of Confidence (SoC) earlier this month and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and National Pingtung University of Science (NPUST) on Monday may be the first to be held after the endorsement was made.

UMS Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, said this prior to the MoU signing ceremony between UMS and NPUST held at the UMS' executive director's meeting room at South Block, here, Monday.

"The SoC will surely facilitate the exchange of students and academic mobility between the two institutions.

"Since there is a symbiosis between teaching and research, we expect to see intensified research collaboration in the areas common to us such as wildlife conservation, conservation biology, agriculture, food science and forestry."

He added that on top of these areas, UMS also hopes that NPUST will participate strongly in UMS' local resource-based research activities related to oil palm, aquaculture and seaweed, environmental sustainability as well as oil and gas.

"It is a great pleasure for me to address all of you in this important occasion in which a formal relationship between UMS and NPUST will be established later this morning."

According to Harun, the fact that NPUST's President, Dr Yuan-Kuang Guu (Mike Guu), has come to visit signifies the keen interest and high commitment of NPUST in ensuring that the link between both institutions are established which leads to fruition.

Apart from that, he added that the relationship between NPUST and UMS is not new at all.

"More than two years ago, a UMS Link Holdings delegation, led by member of UMS Board of Directors, Datuk Henry Chin, paid a visit to NPUST to learn about

the commercialisation success of NPUST."

He pointed out a year later, former Vice-Chancellor Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon led a UMS delegation there to discuss areas of collaboration and signed a letter of intent with President Guu.

Following these networking activities, the Directors of International Affairs of UMS and the Dean of International Affairs of NPUST have been in contact with each other, which led to the facilitation of linkages between academic members of the two institutions.

For example, Associate Professor Dr Henry Bernard of the Institute of Tropical Biology and Conservation, UMS has facilitated a fieldwork programme of graduate students of Professor Dr Curtis Pei of the Institute of Wildlife Conservation, NPUST.

"I am very positive with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, research collaboration such as this will be intensified."

Harun sees good potential and will send their staff to NPUST to look into more collaboration.

Among the basic outlines of the MoU is curriculum, research and staff exchange.

Meanwhile, Guu said UMS could benefit from their strengths which among them include engineering (in terms of corporation with industries), food processing and wildlife conservation.

He also invited Harun and others to their 88th anniversary in November, which marks the number of years they have been around and also important due to its number 88 (*Fa Fa*) which means prosperity in English.

"This is the second MoU we have inked with a Malaysian university," he said, adding that the first was UPM (Universiti Putra Malaysia)

Among those present were member of UMS Board of Directors Datuk Henry Chin, Dean of International Affairs, NPUST, Dr Henry Chen, members of NPUST Alumni, Principal and Senior Officers of UMS.