

1,000 more places in the UMS this year

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has offered 5,068 places for new students in its 2012/2013 academic session.

Its Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, said the number was an increase of nine per cent compared to the 4,606 students registered last year.

"As at Friday afternoon, 4,140 students have registered. This year the registration was implemented through the online system for the first time which was carried out smoothly.

"We also take into account the problem faced by students living in the interior who might not have access to the Internet and have allowed a period of one or two weeks for them to register," he told reporters at UMS here, Friday.

Mohd Harun said 55 percent of the students who applied for the places were from the arts stream while the rest from the science stream.

"Our target is to increase the intake of science students to up to 50 per cent. This is a challenge for the future but I believe we can achieve it once we set up our science foundation centre," he said.

According to him, four per cent or 180 of the applicants were international students who would be pursuing



Dr Mohd Harun (centre) speaking at the press conference.

undergraduate programmes at the School of Economic Studies and Labuan International Business School.

"Most of them (160) are from China while the rest, from South Korea, Indonesia, Turkey and Brunei," he said.

Mohd Harun said the number of international students at the university had risen by seven per cent compared to last year.

"We will increase the number of international students not only from China, Brunei and Indonesia but also from other countries," he said.

Meanwhile, he said 40 per cent of the new batch comprised Sabah students.

He also said it was compulsory for the new students or first-year students to stay in the university's college residence.