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KOTA KINABALU: Univer-
siti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)
and Kolej Yayasan Sabah
(KYS) marked a historical day
and a milestone with the sign-
ing of a Memorandum of Un-
derstanding (MoU) yester-
day.

The MoU is centred on the
collaboration and develop-
ment of quality academic and
technical programmes be-
tween the two parties, in par-
ticular in the field of en-
gineering, information tech-
nology, business and eco-
nomic.

The signing ceremony was
held at Le Meridien Hotel here
between UMS vice chancellor
Prof Dr Mohd Harun Abdul-
lah and KYS board of di-
rectors chairman Datuk Kamal
DE Quadra.

It was witnessed by
Yayasan Sabah director/ICSB
executive chairman-cum-KYS board chair-
man Tan Sri Datu Khalil Datu
Haji Jamalul, Deacon of UMS
School of Engineering & In-
formation Technology Prof Dr
Rosalam Haji Sarbatly and
deacon of UMS School of
Business & Economic Prof Dr
Hajjah Arsiah Bahron.

In his address at the event,
Dr Mohd said it is an honour
for UMS to establish synergy
cooperation on the academic
development of KYS which is
expected to benefit both par-
ties, in addition to contribut-
ing quality human resources
to Sabah.

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UMS, KYS mark milestone with MoU

"This MoU is significant
and important as a catalyst
factor to improve the quality
and quantity of human re-
sources specialising in the
fields of engineering & in-
formation technology and
business & financial manage-
ment," he mentioned.

Thus, remarked Dr Mohd,
this academic joint venture
will ensure UMS and KYS
continue to complement the
country in the development of
competitive human capital.

"This cooperation is based
on the Blue Ocean Strategy
which is in line with the gov-
ernment transformation plan
for the purpose of increasing
the effectiveness of imple-
menting the national develop-
ment plan," he added.

According to Dr Mohd, the
main agenda of the MoU is to
focus on the development of
the academic curriculum that
is UMS will help the KYS
programme in offering cours-

es toward undergraduate de-
grees.

For a start, he said, the
programme to be developed is
the Bachelor of Arts in En-
gineering Technology degree
programmes, majoring in au-
tomotive technology and
building construction technol-
ogy.

"In this context, our School
of Engineering & Information
Technology and School of
Business & Economic have
the ability and capacity to
offer the expertise needed by
KYS," he said.

Meanwhile, Kamal said ear-
lier that he hoped the MoU can
provide the much needed
quality education for the
young people studying in
KYS.

"This collaboration will
provide room to expand fur-
ther in the development of the
academic curriculum of KYS
as we endeavour to bring KYS
to higher level," he said.



Kamal (second left), Dr Mohd (third right) exchanging the MoU watched by Khalil (third left) and senior officers of UMS and KYS at the event yesterday

According to Kamal, to
achieve the higher level, KYS
must ride with UMS in the
field of education in order to
bring benefits to Sabah, es-
pecially in providing quality
and competitive human re-
sources.

Commenting on the various
'failed' MoUs which KYS
had entered into with Aus-
tralian and Dutch universities,
Kamal attributed it to the lack
of commitment by both par-
ties to implement the MoU as
it involve a lot of money.

Normally these MoUs will
lapse after six months if there

is no action taken to imple-
ment them, he said, adding
that "KYS has learned their
lessons".

Hence, Kamal described the
MoU with UMS is the most
ideal collaboration as the two
institutions of higher learning
are just next to each other and
the students need not go very
far to pursue their higher stu-
dies.

It was revealed that based
on earlier discussion, the pro-
gramme under the MoU will
be an integration programme
where KYS will also act as
feeder after its students com-

pleted their diploma level and
they will be absorbed by UMS
to do their degree studies.

Touching on the progress of
getting the university status
for KYS, Khalil disclosed to
reporters that it is still in the
planning stage and prepara-
tion of the ground works be-
fore the proposal is submitted
to the Ministry of Higher Ed-
ucation.

However, he said KYS new
campus should be ready by
June next year which will be
part of the criteria in the ob-
taining university status for
KYS.