

UMS aims to boost academic excellence

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is committed to providing education in line with the Ministry of Higher Learning's aim to establish 20 institutions which are internationally recognised by the year 2020.

UMS Vice Chancellor, Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, said this at the oath-taking ceremony for a total of 599 new postgraduates majoring in various fields at the UMS Chancellor Hall, here, Tuesday.

Every higher learning institution, he said, has to commercialise not less than 10 per cent of their research and development.

"To achieve this objective, every higher learning institution including UMS has the responsibility to be an education provider which would increase the number of intellectual talents in the country," he said.

"UMS, as an innovative university, will continue to increase its efforts towards academic excellence in various fields," he said. He also said the Government is committed towards implementing terminology through the Government Transformation Programme, Economic Transformation Programme and Politic Transformation.

"Part of the initiative is to reach a target of 60,000 PhD holders by the year 2023 and to achieve this, the Higher Learning Ministry implemented the MyBrain Programme 15.

"Under this, three new programmes were created under the Tenth Malaysia Plan, namely the MyMaster Programme, MyPhD and MyPhD Industry, each with the objective of providing financial education assistance to eligible candidates from various postgraduate levels.

"With this in mind, UMS is also committed to make sure that the National Higher Learning Strategy Plan agenda by the Government is translated through the UMS Direction Strategy Plan by 2020," he said.

UMS has started to offer PhD courses since 1999 and has thus far produced a total of 84 PhD holders.

Meanwhile, Dr Harun said the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UMS, Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS) and Universitas Negeri Semarang (UNNES) would be the first step to create an action plan to further enhance their research in art and culture.



Among the postgraduates who took their oath at the UMS Chancellor Hall.

Adding partnership with two Indonesian universities, UNS and UNNES, to its current partnership list, Harun hopes to expand and strengthen their global connection.

He said this prior to the signing of the MoU between these two universities at the UMS Chancellor building, here, Tuesday.

According to him, UMS has developed partnership and collaboration with international institutes of higher learning from other countries in various fields, which among them include science marine research, aquaculture and tropical biology.

"Now, it's time to adapt this with arts and culture. Through the unit of Borneo Heritage Research, the school of arts (Arts faculty), for example, can conduct research in various creative art, visual and music involving various ethnic groups.

"The uniqueness of both countries should be understood for mutual benefit," he added.

For this, Harun suggested that a few months of exchanges be conducted for students and teachers through programmes and industrial training.

"The exchange of knowledge and experiences of academic staff in various fields gives new ideas to enable UMS, UNS and UNNES to grow."

Among those present were Deputy Rector (Perkongsian dan Pembangunan Perniagaan) from UNS, Dr Widodo Muktiyo, and Assistant Vice Rector (Perkongsian dan Pembangunan) from UNNES, Dr Fathur Rokhman.