

UMS signs MoU to carry out research on health

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EcoHealth Alliance (EHA) to carry out academic research and other activities related to it.

Its vice chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Harun Abdullah, said the collaboration between UMS and EHA would be conducted under the research unit, namely the Development and Health Research Unit (DHRU) which has been established at UMS under the EcoCampus Department.

EHA, an NGO which has conducted research in health and

environmental issues including investigations of the economic impacts of infectious diseases and has provided outreach programmes that included disease ecology training in 10 countries, will be collaborating with UMS in a project called 'IDEEAL' which stands for 'Infectious disease emergence and the economics of altered landscapes'.

In the collaboration, EHA will not only provide funding for postgraduate students but will also encompass other academic activities such as research collaboration between UMS lecturers and EHA researchers

in the multi-discipline fields of medicine/ health, economics and social sciences, to name a few.

It shall also include the development of academic linkages between UMS and international academic institutions including from USA in terms of academic and student networks as well as in the publication of academic papers in highly ranked journals on work generated from the collaboration between UMS and EHA, he said.

Dr Harun added that for a start, EHA would provide between RM200,000 and RM300,000 in grants to UMS. EHA was represented by its president, Dr Peter Daszak.



Harun (second left) and Dr Peter (second right) exchanging the memorandum of understanding after the signing ceremony yesterday.