

# UMS to foster more and better ties with other learning institutes

BP 27-09-2012 A9

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) hopes to foster more and better ties with other learning institutes within and outside of the country.

Its vice chancellor, Professor Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, said he hoped the Southeast Asia Psychology Conference would be able to help create cooperation among UMS in general and the School of Psychology and Social Work in particular with international scholars in terms of conducting research in the field of psychology with multi-disciplinary theme that can

have a significant impact on the nation.

"This is in line with Malaysia's hope to be one of the best providers of higher education in the region as well as at the international level," he said during the opening of the Southeast Asia Psychology Conference which carried the theme 'Unity Through Diversity' at the university's recital hall yesterday.

He added that the School of Psychology and Social Work was the largest psychology school in Malaysia and it offered five bachelor level programmes.

The programmes offered were among the most popular chosen by students who were keen to do their studies at UMS, he said.

Dr Mohd Harun then commended on the organiser of the event and stated that the organisation of the conference which attracted more than 400 participants from the United States, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia and Australia as well as here, was proof that the school contributed to the movement of psychology growth in the region, particularly in Malaysia.

"This conference is successful in gathering all psychologists from multi-disciplinary backgrounds to share knowledge that can help to improve the quality of academics. I do hope that the Southeast Asia Psychology Conference will be a platform to exchange ideas and strengthen the relations among psychologists not only in Southeast Asia region but around the globe as well," he said.

"Hence, it is my fervent hope that through cooperation and exchange of knowledge throughout the conference,

participants and presenters can produce more quality writings and publications in high impact journals. As we all know, the reputation of academicians is evaluated based on their academic writings."

Meanwhile, the school's dean, Professor Madya Dr Murnizam Haji Halik said the conference was the second one organised by the school.

"The first one was organised in 2009 where over 260 papers were presented comprising of papers from various countries. Out of 260, 30 percent were presented

by international participants," he said.

He added that for this year's conference, the number of papers presented increased to 356, which was almost 40 percent increase.

"What makes this conference more exciting is the increase in the number of international papers from 30 percent previously to 45 percent for this current conference. We have more student presenters compared to lecturers by 175 to 157," he said.

The conference will end on September 28.