

UMS strives to increase number of international students

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is striving to increase the number of international students to study at its campus here in line with its vision to be one of the premier universities in the region, said its vice chancellor Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.

See Page 5

NST 09.10.2012 425

Therefore, he said the education curriculum of UMS would be adjusted according to the educational system practised internationally.

Dr Mohd Harun said during the International Student Foundation Programme (ISFP), new students will be introduced to a broader worldview especially in the aspect of international multi-culture.

“Irrespective of origin, all students have the same goal as a global citizen. Understand your difference and always be open to the culture of other people,” he said.

Dr Mohd Harun said this in his speech delivered by International Affairs Centre director Dr Jenny Liew during the registration of new students of the ISFP at the UMS campus here yesterday.

At the event, a total of 96 new students mainly from China and one from Iraq registered for the six-month programme at the university.

ISFP is a preparatory course for international students conducted by USMLink Centre for Professional Development (UCPD) and it is a prerequisite to enter any degree programme UMS.

Dr Mohd Harun said the presence of international students at UMS would enable them to understand and learn new cultures and languages and thus make them into a more open-minded person when it comes to cultural understanding.

“There are now more international students at UMS coming from many different countries namely China, Indonesia, Korea Selatan and Turki,” he said.

On students from China, Dr Mohd Harun said: “Whether you come from Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Sichuan, Yunnan or wherever, I hope that you would be generous enough to share your culture with your new friends.”

“I hope that students from China would establish close friendship with locals and learn their culture,” he said.

While welcoming the new international students, Dr Mohd Harun said: “You are now part of the UMS family who emphasises academic excellence and services to the community.”

“UMS is among the universities around the world with unique and beautiful natural surroundings which also promotes cultural harmony,” he said. - *By Marryan Razan*