



Malaysian and Chinese exponents take one for the album.

Kudos to UMS for hosting Asia University Taekwondo C'ship

BP 12/10/2012 A19

KOTA KINABALU: Being selected to host the third edition of the Asia University Taekwondo Championships is regarded a proud achievement for Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Malaysia in general. "This shows that our counterparts in the Asian region hold us in such high regard and that they have confidence in our ability to host this international championship.

"Therefore we would like to say thank you and congratulations to UMS for this proud feat," said Malaysia Higher Education Ministry deputy secretary-general, Datuk Haji Omar Abd Rahman.

"A championship such as this can be regarded as the perfect platform to showcase our athletes' talents at high levels," he added.

Omar said this when representing his minister, Datuk Seri Mohd Khaled Nordin at the opening ceremony at the

UMS Chancellor Hall here, yesterday.

A total of nine countries are taking part in the tournament. This, Omar said, was something to be proud of, considering the fact that such tournaments usually only involve six or seven countries.

The tournament initially targeted 12 countries but Brunei, Iran and Lebanon withdrew from the competition at the last minute.

Omar said the Asian University Sports Federation (ASUF) has 35 members, but that many were not able to join the tournament due to other commitments including competing at world and/or domestic championships.

The nine countries taking part are China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia.

More than 100 exponents and officials are involved in the

three-day championship, which contests 11 Kyorugi (sparring) and three Poomsae (Pattern) events for men and women categories respectively.

The first edition was held in UAE (United Arab Emirates) in 2010, while Kazakhstan hosted the previous one last year.

Meanwhile, UMS vice chancellor-cum-ASEAN University Sports Council president and Malaysian University Sports Council (Masum) chairman, Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Md Mansur, hoped the tournament would not just be about competing but also about exchange of ideas and forging closer rapport among participants.

Also present were Malaysia Higher Education Ministry Sports Unit assistant secretary-general, Dr Ahmad Naim Ismail and AUSF appraiser-cum-Council of University Sports Board of Thailand vice president, Preecha Prayoonpat.