



Tun Juhar presenting a degree to one of the graduates at the 14th convocation ceremony of Universiti Malaysia Sabah yesterday.

## Language key to sustainability of progress – Juhar

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Graduates of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) were reminded that that they would need to acquire experience, to practise good ethics and master other foreign languages, namely, English, in order to compete in today's workforce.

"If we want to maintain progress in this globalised era, our interactions with other people should be developed and language is the key to the sustainability of this progress," said Head of State and UMS Chancellor Tun Juhar Mahiruddin when he launched the 14th convocation ceremony at the Chancellor's Hall yesterday.

He urged them to improve their communication and negotiation skills but at the same time endeavour to retain the beauty of the Malaysian culture.

"Adopting our culture does not mean that we are willing to be bullied or trampled upon because we must always maintain and defend our dignity and identity,"

he said.

He also reminded them that acquiring an academic qualification is merely a first step into the working world and that they would need to adjust to the real world they were about to enter.

"The qualification you possess is only part of the requirement to achieve greater future success. But, your ability to adapt and apply your knowledge is crucial in determining your continued success in the face of competition in the job market," he said.

"You are aware that in this era of globalisation, you will need to have the capability to think, act and react, and that will require strong physical and mental endurance," he said.

Juhar also mentioned that universities have surpassed the role of providers of knowledge to scholars and their greater role is in contributing towards the development and sustainability of the world.

The chancellor also mentioned of the nation's readiness to embrace the status of a developed nation by 2020 and of the various efforts that have been undertaken.

"Plans are underway to transform the country under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. These plans include the Government Transformation Plan (GTP) and the Economic Transformation Plan (ETP). Both these plans are geared towards improving the country's physical capabilities to become a high income society by the 21st century," he said.

"Personally, I see that every development planning that is holistic and constructive in nature must be supported by capable human capital. In this context, UMS needs to have a human capital development plan so that it can complement the efforts of the country to develop future Malaysians that are knowledgeable, intelligent and value their country."