

130 students take part in writing workshop

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KOTA KINABALU: More than 130 students from three secondary schools in the State participated in the Malaysian Scholarly Publication Council (MAPIM) Schools Writing Workshop.

The event which was jointly organised by MAPIM and the Publication Unit of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) saw students from SM St. Michael, Penampang (62), SMK Sg. Damit, Tuaran (50) and SMK Bundu Tuhan, Ranau (16) participate in the writing workshop which was held for the first time at the UMS Postgraduate Auditorium Hall.

UMS Vice Chancellor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Bin Abdullah in his speech delivered by Universiti Malaysia Sabah Publication Unit head Prof Dr. Syed Aziz Wafa Syed Khalid Wafa said the workshop is one of the community service programmes that specifically aim to fulfill its social responsibility towards the local community, as well as to meet the KPI (Key Performance Index).

He said MAPIM had always played a big role making universities a community based institution as universities generally will not be able to stand alone without the support of the community synergistically.

Thus, MAPIM besides performing its functions as a driver of scholarly publications in Malaysia, has taken the initiative to carry out its community service programme.

He said the target or the society synonymous with the look and function of MAPIM are schools, which includes students.

"Thus this writing workshops to be held for two days is suitable for the needs of students."

Harun said in addition to academic purposes, the workshop will indirectly serve as a platform to strengthen the relationship and cooperation between MAPIM, UMS and the schools.

"To write, compose and even write is not an easy thing. If there are no clear guidelines and ideas, definitely a good script cannot be produced.

"Hence, the students actually are very lucky to get mentoring from experts in the field of writing. They should take this opportunity to gain the maximum knowledge possible to increase their knowledge and also to prepare for their exams.

"I was informed that on the first day, students will be exposed to techniques and the intricacies of proper and ethical creative writing.

"Apart from aiming to meet the requirements for examination, the exposure is very important to students who want to be active in the writing field, in particular that of creative writing.

"I'm sure some of the students in this workshop have tried before to produce their own creative work. It's not impossible that perhaps one day there among you those who will be national literary writers."



Syed Aziz (right) handing over the symbolic MAPIM publications to a school representative from SM St Michael Penampang.

He said on the second day the students will have the opportunity to learn how to write English essays specifically to meet the Malaysian Certificate of Education (SPM).

"Here the students will be exposed to the proper format of writing essays according to the scope of the required questions.

"Generally, most students find it difficult to answer to the questions' requirements due to not understanding the questions. The matter is something that is not beneficial to students.

He said quality essays should have facts that can be communicated clearly according to an orderly arrangement.

"Good essays can also leave a positive impact on the reader as well as raise suggestions for improvement on issues.

"As such, I hope that the participants can take advantage of this opportunity to give full attention towards improving their writing skills."

The event also saw selected MAPIM publications being handed over to representatives from the three participating schools.

Also present was the Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council (MAPIM) Schools Writing Workshop Chairman Khalid Mazlan, Workshop Speakers, Assoc Prof. Dr Lim Swee Tin and Assoc Prof Dr Abdul Ghani Awang and representatives from SM St. Michael, Penampang, SMK Sg. Damit, Tuaran and SMK Bundu Tuhan, Ranau.