

Uphold the 1M'sia concept, TYT reminds UMS grads



Ahmadshah (right) presenting the Prof. Emeritus Award to Dr Ahmat Adam.

Hayati Dzulkifli

KOTA KINABALU: A total of 4,615 undergraduates and post-graduates of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) have been reminded of their responsibilities to uphold the 1Malaysia concept.

Making the call, Head of State Tun Ahmadshah Abdullah said the graduates should not only shout the slogan but give back to society by contributing ideas and expertise they have gained at UMS.

"I am sure the graduates who will be receiving their scrolls in this prestigious convocation have intellectualism and big ambitions that can be used as a platform towards a direction for the human race.

"The idea of this direction is known as cultural orientation and in the Malaysian context, the new cultural orientation is the 1 Malaysia concept. If this concept is truly valued and appreciated in order to be realised, it can help to develop the Malaysian race to be united, progressive, innovative and be at par with other races at international level," he said.

Ahmadshah, who is also the UMS Chancellor, said this in his keynote address at the 12th UMS Convocation at its Chancellory Hall in UMS here, Saturday.

Of the 4,615, a total of 4,229 were undergraduates and 386 postgraduates.

He said the graduates must also be prepared to face challenges under the globalisation era that has positive and negative impacts to the development of the nation and people.

"It cannot be denied that the effects of globalisation are spreading wide and growing and it is bringing positive and negative impacts to the nation and societies. It could help to enhance the achievement of a culture but at the same time, it can smear the existing culture.

"The unlimited flow of information through information technology could slowly destroy the solidarity of a nation and race. The gap between the rich and poor is becoming wider because of globalisation plus the surrounding, our social and culture are also eroded.

"But the positive impact can be seen through technology where we can get information in a blink of an eye or in a matter of seconds. And we could also see how information

is converted into virtual reality through computer screens like seeing dinosaurs running in the virtual reality dimension," Ahmadshah said.

Hence, he said, the graduates should apply whatever knowledge and expertise they acquired from the university for good use to face the challenges of globalisation.

Ahmadshah also called on the graduates to look for answers and resolutions to social problems in the country like juvenile delinquents, mental illness, sexual crimes, drug and alcohol abuse, and teen crimes, among others.

He said parents also play vital roles to instill spiritual strength, positive and moral values in their children so that these will become their strong characters that can help them to ward off negative influences and stay away from social ill activities.

In the convocation, Ahmadshah presented the highest award of education, Emeritus Professor 2010 to Prof. Dr Ahmat Adam, who was among the first few who were involved in the setting up of UMS. He was also the former dean of Centre for Promotion of Knowledge and Language Learning (CPKLL) in UMS).

Andi Tamsang Binti Andi Kele who took up a hotel management major under Bumiputera category was the recipient for Royal Educational Award while Rebecca Sylvia Phang with accounting major also received the same award under non-Bumiputera category.

Other recipients were:

- Benjamin Ng Han Sim majoring in medical doctor programme was announced as the recipient for Chancellor's Gold Medal;

- Lennon Low Kah Weng who took up electronic and electrical engineering programme was the recipient of Vice-Chancellors Gold Medal.

- Yong Khang Choong majoring in electronic and electrical engineering programme was the recipient of Alumni Gold Medal.

- Shafinaz Binti Naim majoring in development and economic planning programme was the recipient of Zainal Abidin Bador Award.

- Ching Hui Fung @ Sarah Chin majoring in banking and financial management programme was the recipient of Out Campus Learning Programme Award.