



Dr Mohd Harun and Dr Jan Van Tol exchanging the MoU documents.

UMS signs pact with Dutch varsity on marine research

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) recently sealed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre of the University of Leiden in Amsterdam.

UMS Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, and Registrar, Datuk Abdullah Mohd Said, represented the university in the MoU signing, while the centre was represented by its Associate Director of Research, Dr Jan Van Tol, and Marine Zoology Department Head, Dr Bert W Hoeksema.

Dr Mohd Harun said the signing was a follow-up to the official visit by Head of State Tun Juhar Mahiruddin to the centre

in March this year, accompanied by the university's senior officials.

It covers joint research in the fields of marine biodiversity and terrestrial biodiversity, he said, adding one of the focuses is related to coral reef study to be carried out jointly with UMS Borneo Marine Research Institute which will further uplift the institute's status as a centre of high education excellence. Apart from that, the MoU also facilitates in academicians mobility and exchange of research information.

Two of UMS' academic staff are currently furthering their studies at the said university in the field of coral reefs and evolution biology.