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TCTP participants benefit from training

KOTA KINABALU: Seventeen participants from 10 countries and 52 of their government agencies have benefited from biodiversity and ecosystem management training in Sabah.

Conducted under the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP), the 2015 edition that drew to a close yesterday saw the participation of 17 trainees from 10 countries.

“Sabah has become a consistent international training ground for integrated ecosystem and biodiversity management,” Sabah deputy state secretary Datuk Joseph Yuntavid said at the closing ceremony.

Among the outcome of the programme is the drafting of action plans to be implemented in the participants’ respective countries, of which the TCTP secretariat will monitor and follow up.

“Sabah TCTP will keep on monitoring the progress of the implementation of the plans of action by all participants who are now the alumni of the

TCTP,” said Joseph. The Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (ITBC, UMS), Malaysia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sabah State Government and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) are partners in the programme.

“I am utmost certain that the training programme will be continued and further enhanced, strengthened in the near future under the coordination of ITBC, UMS with other Sabah State agencies,” added Joseph.

Meanwhile, the Director of ITBC, Prof Charles S Vairappan, said the participating countries have benefitted from the success of Sabah in integrating all stakeholders in the conservation of the state’s biodiversity and ecosystem.

Other than the TCTP, the Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation (BBEC) project concluded in 2012 also has led to a large number of officers from Sabah being trained in biodiversity and conservation.

“They are now assets to



Joseph (second right) handing a certificate to a participant as Charles (right) and Ismail (second left) look on.

Sabah in managing the valuable natural resources that Sabah is blessed with.

“There are also the officers and researchers who are now training our fellow conservationist from other developing nations in Sabah TCTP,” said Charles.

He believed that the ability and awareness on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation will be a good legacy for the future generation.

The 10 countries represent-

ed at the Sabah TCTP were Tanzania, Kenya, Botswana, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, and as well as Malaysia.

JICA spokesman Yoshizawa hoped that participants will apply the formulated action plan and put into action to solve the urgent issue in their respective areas.

Also present at the ceremony is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UMS, Associate Professor Ismail Ali.