

UMS, Yanmar sign pact on biodiesel activities

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By Murib Morpi

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with Yanmar Kota Kinabalu R&D Center to pursue collaborative activities on biodiesel.

Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said the collaboration with the institute was hoped to further accelerate the university's research and development activities in process engineering and biotechnology.

He said under the agreement, Yanmar would be providing support to enable UMS research team conduct studies and acquire data on biodiesel engineering from the fields.

"A team of researchers at the faculty of engineering set out to find solutions to prevent environmental problems related to the biodiesel industry. The result of their hard work paid off with a series of successful experiments.

"The team has also filed a patent on their innovation. However this is



Harun (second left) exchanging documents with Takashi at the MoA signing yesterday.

only the beginning of their project as the actual trial testing and Life Cycle Assessment is necessary since it is not possible to obtain the desired data in a laboratory setting. This is where Yanmar comes in," he said.

Harun said the success of the project by UMS would lead to a

sustainable and environmental-friendly biodiesel technology that is equipped with fully automated based system that never disrupts the environment.

Meanwhile, Yanmar Kota Kinabalu's managing director, Takashi Saeki said apart from

supporting the UMS research team in their research, the Japan-based company would also consider employing the students involved.

"I also hope there will be more collaborations in research and development between Yanmar and UMS in the future," he said.