

UMS graduates' employability reaches 86.2pc



Dr Kamaruzaman

DE 27.11.2011 3

Sherell Ann Jeffrey

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has continued to show improvements in its various aspects in line with the Higher Education Ministry's visions and missions.

Its Vice Chancellor Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon said the university's academic performance, graduates' soft skills and employability in the labour market had continued to show significant improvements.

"The 2010 Key Performance Index data taken from the Ministry showed 55 per cent of UMS graduates were employed within six months after graduation.

"In fact, a review showed the real achievement for employability of our graduates in 2010 is 86.2 per cent. This indeed is an achievement and an indicator of the increasing academic and intellectual quality of our graduates," he said at the UMS 13th Convocation, here, Saturday.

Apart from that, he noted the achievement of academic staff in research and scholarship, measured by the number of its research grants.

"In 2010, UMS managed to secure 129 grants with a total funding of RM8.6 million. For this year until July, UMS has acquired a total of 29 research grants with a total funding of RM2.6 million.

"This achievement proves the culture of research is competitive. In the area of publications from 2004 to 2010, UMS produced more than 70 published researches in a variety of high-impact journals," he said. He also said UMS to date had signed a total of 139 Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with foreign universities.

"For the period from 2011 to 2015, there will be 22 active MoUs co-operating in many disciplines in academic, research and student affairs with leading educational institutions from the United Kingdom, Australia, Palestine, France, Indonesia, Philippines, Germany, Japan, Poland and Korea.



Twin sister Sharifah Rozilah (left) and Sharifah Rodiah admiring their degrees at the UMS convocation yesterday.

"With these opportunities in mind, academicians are urged to be more active and dynamic in order to achieve excellence towards putting UMS in the international arena," he said.

Towards this end, Kamaruzaman reminded the graduates to continue to improve their knowledge and skills, particularly in English communication skill, after graduation.

A total of 4,484 graduates will receive their scrolls during the three-day convocation which ends on Nov 29.

Of the total, two are recipients of Honorary Degree, 16, Doctor of Philosophy, 273, Master's degree, 4,052, Bachelor's degree, five, Bachelor's degree (posthumous) and 60, Diploma. A total of 72 Bachelor degree recipients secured First Class Honour.

For Diploma, a total of 37 recipients of the Nursing Diploma and 23 Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology graduated for the first time in the UMS School of Medicine.