



Dr Charles (middle) flanked by Gerald (left) and Hiroyuki.

## Integrated biodiversity and ecosystem conservation course at UMS next month

BP 19.8.2016 4

By Jenne Lajiun

**KOTA KINABALU:** Twenty participants from eight third world countries will be coming to Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to undergo a 21-day course in Integrated Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation.

According to UMS Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation director, Professor Dr Charles S. Vairappan during a press conference yesterday, the participants were mainly senior government personnel as well as wardens and scientist from Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

He said that the participants would start the course on Sept 8.

"We will share with them the knowledge of doing conservation work in Sabah as well efforts that have been undertaken by the government to increase the State's forest reserve," he said.

He added that the participants would be taken to the field and visit conservation efforts such as the tagal systems in the West Coast areas of Sabah.

"We will bring them to Penampang, Keningau, Beaufort and Klias, among others," he said.

He also commented on the conservation works that had been successfully undertaken in Sabah, among them the Sabah Forestry

Department success in increasing the size of forest reserves in Sabah over the last one decade.

"We have also created a lot of animal corridors," he said.

He explained that the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) was a training programme conducted in Malaysia for government officers from developing countries.

"Sabah TCTP is offered by the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ITBC), UMS in collaboration with the Sabah Natural Resources Office (NRO). Sabah TCTP was conceptualised to highlight the capacity of ITBC and the State Government in international training and information dissemination pertaining to the area of biodiversity conservation," he said.

The theme of Sabah TCTP is "Integrated Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation."

It is sponsored by the Malaysian Technical Training Programme (MTCP) under the Foreign Affairs ministry and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The programme is jointly monitored and evaluated by the two organisations.

Also present at the event yesterday were NRO senior geologist, Gerald Jetony and Hiroyuki Hatori, Chief Advisor JICA Sabah.