



IN ACTION: UMS vice chancellor professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah enjoyed playing at the artificial turf football field.

UMS artificial turf earns FIFA approval

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has one of the best artificial turf fields in the country and the best in Borneo.

A test carried out at the facility recently revealed it met the specifications contained in the FIFA standard.

"It is an honour for UMS to have a top quality artificial grass field which is recognised by the world football governing body, FIFA.

"It is suitable for training and competition purposes as well as to host national level matches," said UMS vice chancellor professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, who led a test match at the facility here recently.

He said this after various tests were conducted at the facility by Anthony Appairally of Australian-based Acousto-Scan Pty Ltd, which is one of the FIFA-accredited laboratories which offers a testing service including synthetic pitch.

Appairally spent five-hours examining the GreenField branded artificial turf laid on an international size pitch of 68m x 105m as well

as free zones of two-metre at the sideline and three-metre behind the goal posts.

"We finished FIFA testing and so far, everything is good and within the requirement. The field is good and probably one of the best in Malaysia.

"You can easily use it for practice and matches for university and the national team...for friendly match and any event you can have it here," said Appairally.

The field is also equipped with eight-metre high aluminium fencing and it is the only artificial football pitch that has water pump.

"It may be hot outside (the pitch) but playing on it is not because the sand below the surface absorbs the heat.

"It's soft, but not too soft, and it's a good field for practising and playing...(I'm) quite happy," added Appairally who will be heading to India next.

UMS Sports Centre director Mohd Asyraf Fong Abdullah was also present during the tests.

Meanwhile, the friendly match saw the UMS top management team defeat the admin officers 3-2.