



Harun, Whitaker and others after the signing ceremony.

UMS library first in M'sia to have American Corner

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) library became the first academic library in the country to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the US Embassy's Public Affairs Section to establish an American Corner at the university.

The MoU was signed by UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah and US Embassy Public Affairs Section Counsellor Frank J. Whitaker and witnessed by UMS Registrar No'man Ahmad and US Embassy Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer Michael Cavey.

Its main objective is to set up a corner which will house materials about the US and organise activities that will benefit the campus community as well as the public.

With this MoU, the US Embassy Public Affairs Section has agreed to establish a

collection about the US policies, education, geography, history, society, culture and others.

It has also been agreed that the corner will be called 'American Corner'.

"Our ambassador has strong ties with Sabah and we felt it was important that we have an American corner somewhere in Sabah, and when we started looking around, UMS was that partner that we thought would be a good partner," said Whitaker after the signing ceremony.

He said UMS was chosen because of its superb facilities and large student body and it was a natural fit for the project.

The American Corner will be created in the UMS library and aims to serve as a platform for various programmes and partnership with the US embassy.

"We work on a multitude of programmes. Studying in the US, English language learning, environmental pro-

tection.

"So it provides us a platform, and when we have people come out, they can be hosted at UMS. When we do various programmes, film showing, anything like these, we'll look to UMS first," he said.

Among others, Whitaker said the American Corner will feature a collection of books and resource materials as well as access to American technology, particularly Apple computers.

He added that the concept of the corner will be using the Smithsonian design.

"My associate Michael Cavey is working with Smithsonian and they have given them a plan to do the design. We will ensure that the design that comes back to us will be practical, useful and appealing, thus giving UMS the best advantage," he said.