



Jainab strikes the gong to launch the conference while others look on.

## Good venue for edu collaborations: Jainab

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KOTA KINABALU: The International Conference on Education and Psychology 2016 (ICEduPsy16) is a good avenue to foster local and international collaborations to promote the profession of education and psychology particularly in the Borneo region, said Community Development and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Jainab Ahmad.

Jainab said education and psychology are two interrelated areas with huge effects on the welfare of societies.

"Hopefully, this conference provides an ideal ground for educators and researchers to share their knowledge and discuss the latest educational and psychological issues that may shape the future of the education and psychology in our region," she said during the opening of ICEduPsy16, here, on Thursday.

Themed 'Educating Transformation in Shaping Future Generations', the two-day conference was attended by some 500 participants.

The conference, organised by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in collaboration with Universitas Borneo Tarakan, featured three keynote speakers and more than 260 papers.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said a collaboration such as the conference would strengthen the Malaysia-Indonesia neighbourly relations, and also promote knowledge sharing and transfer among experts in the fields of psychology and education.

"This conference is also timely as it serves as a platform for researchers, practitioners and postgraduate students to keep abreast with the latest developments, and engage in meaningful dialogues on the achievements, challenges and opportunities that lie ahead," he said.

According to him, the conference also appreciates the contribution of teachers and psychologists to human development which is of paramount importance in producing knowledgeable and skilled youths to boost economic activities in the two countries and benefit society.

"Honouring the teaching profession through academic activities such as this conference will contribute to transforming teaching into a profession of choice which is one of the shifts listed in the Malaysian Education Blueprint.

"As for psychology, the conference is also directed towards better understanding and solving problems and phenomena in several spheres of human activity, behaviour and thought, thus helping our future generation to enhance better in communication, build strong relationships and be more successful in life."

Also present were Universitas Borneo Tarakan Rector Assoc Prof Dr Bambang Widigdo and UMS' Faculty of Psychology and Education Dean Assoc Prof Dr Mohd Dahlan Abdul Malek.