

# 40 families in Semporna will benefit RM46 mil seaweed cultivation

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Forty families in Semporna will benefit from a RM46 million seaweed cultivation project by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to eradicate poverty.

Implemented as a mini-estate project, it will provide each family with an income of RM2,000 a month.

UMS seaweed research unit director, Professor Dr Suhaimi Md Yasir said the Sabah Parks had already given the approval to conduct the pilot scheme.

He was speaking to reporters after the launch of the Yayasan UMS and Auditorium Yeoh Tiong Lay (YTL) building yesterday.

The funds were allocated by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and the Performance Management & Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) to Yayasan UMS to carry out the project.

Previously, the university conducted a similar project in Pulau Banggi, Kudat from 1998 and 2007.

According to Dr Suhaimi more than 100 families took part in the project and are enjoying profits of between RM500 to RM800 a month.

Meanwhile, the RM3 million Yayasan UMS and Yeoh.



Dr Yeoh (right) presents a souvenir to Juhar. At left is Dr Kamaruzaman

Tiong Lay (YTL) auditorium was officially launched yesterday by the Head of State, Tun Juhar Mahiruddin.

According to UMS vice chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon the auditorium was named as Auditorium YTL based on an agreement with the financier of the project, Tan Sri Dr Yeoh Tiong Lay during a meeting last year.

The building was completed last month.

Dr Kamaruzaman also said

that the foundation and UMS hope to raise more funds to build additional seminar rooms adjacent to the building.

The foundation which was established in 1999 has helped to build accommodation for 3,000 students in 2004 through a joint-venture with Syarikat Sepanggar Jaya JV.

It also has helped to get accommodation for 500 female students from UMS at 1Borneo, near here. - PR