

# Sabah to remain biodiversity training ground — Sukarti

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Sabah would continue to be a consistent international training ground for integrated biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, said State Secretary Tan Sri Sukarti Wakiman.

Therefore, he hoped the organising of training programmes such as integrated biodiversity and ecosystem management courses should be continuously increased by the relevant government agencies in the state.

“On behalf of the Sabah government, I am proud to say that Sabah has become an important

training ground for integrated biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.”

Sukarti said this at the closing of the third round of the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), here, yesterday.

The text of his speech was read out by UMS deputy vice-chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Prof Dr Ismail Ali.

Also present were UMS's Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ITBC) director, Dr Charles S. Vairappan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) representative to Malaysia,

Tomoko Miyagawa.

On the TCTP, Sukarti said the programme was jointly organised by the Sabah government, Foreign Ministry, UMS's ITBC and JICA Malaysia.

“The participants listened to talks by experts from universities, government agencies and non-governmental organisations who have been directly involved in conservation efforts in Sabah.

“I've also been informed that the participants also had a series of discussions and workshops to present the proposed projects or action plan for their own country by taking into account the

experience and knowledge they have gained in Sabah,” he said.

The 21-day programme from Sept 8, had 20 participants from eight countries including India, Uganda, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand.

It involved formal classroom lectures, video presentations, field visits to various forest reserves and protected areas in Sabah, interaction with local communities living in and at the peripheral of the protected areas, as well as discussions with conservation practitioners on the ground.