

3rd International Conference on Rural Medicine at UMS

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Rural Medicine at UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) made its presence known in the specialised area of rural medicine by hosting the 3rd International Conference on Rural Medicine.

The university's efforts to organise the conference is timely and well suited for Sabah as it is one of the states with the most number of villages and rural areas in Malaysia, said Deputy Health Minister, Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin.

She said this in her speech which was presented by UMS School of Medicine Acting Dean, Associate Prof Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin during the launching ceremony of the conference held at the Kota Kinabalu Le Meridien Hotel, yesterday.

"Rural medicine concept is nothing new at the international level. In fact it is a major medical field which covers a variety of specialities such as Internal Medicine, Surgery, Community Medicine, and many other disciplines which should be explored more in depth.

"Therefore, the UMS drive to take centre stage by sharing ideas, brain storming, and fostering collaborations within the Asia-Pacific region or even globally is something all of us should be proud of," said Rosnah.

Rosnah said that it is ideal for UMS to venture into the field of rural medicine due to the facilities they have as well as having doctors and paramedics who are concerned about the problems



UMS School of Medicine Acting Dean, Assoc Prof Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin, beating the gong to officially open the 3rd International Conference on Rural Medicine

associated with medical and health services in this field.

The Deputy Health Minister said that there is global indication on the importance of Rural Health in the various disciplines of medicine.

She quoted the World Health Organization (WHO) in its World Health Statistics Report 2009 which said the evidence from 90 countries that have the necessary data shows that in many countries, there are significant inequities.

In half the countries, child mortality rates are at least 1.4 times higher in rural areas compared with urban areas and at least 1.9 times higher among the poorest 20 per cent of households compared with the richest 20 per cent of household.

"In 64 per cent of countries, the proportion of births attended to by skilled personnel is at least 20 higher in urban than in rural areas," she quoted.