

UMS embarking on digital transformation

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) needs to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution or Industry 4.0 to maintain relevance to prospective students and stakeholders.

Its Vice Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Kamaruddin Mudin said that the university needs to deliver future generations with the right set of skills and knowledge (i.e future-proof graduates).

“At the same time UMS needs to change and adapt for the digital transformation associated with Industry 4.0.,” he said.

Dr Kamaruddin added that the university had formulated a transformation framework, namely Transformation Towards University/Industry 4.0 which covers three areas: Learning and Teaching 4.0, Reseach 4.0 and Smart Eco-UMS 4.0.

“Smart Eco-UMS 4.0 focuses on the digitalization of UMS. In other words, UMS is leveraging on the existing and emerging digital technologies to soar upwards in this era of Industry 4.0. This is also in response to expectation of the Ministry of Higher Education that universities in Malaysia need to be transformed to Smart Campuses,” he said.

Smart Eco-UMS 4.0 has a number of initiatives, including digital ID, digital payment, integrated information system and smart security.

A crucial enabler for this Smart Eco-UMS 4.0 endeavour is a connected campus and UMS is giving priority towards enhancing the appropriate infrastructure for this, said Dr Kamaruddin.

He also said that UMS had recently received a big boost towards this whereby the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia will help in the installation of fibre networks and other related facilities with an initial funding of RM5 million.

The funds would be channelled through the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, he said.