

# Foreign UMS students tackle intensive English

By MOHD IZHAM B. HASHIM

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) welcomed a new batch of 23 international students who registered for the 31st intake of the Intensive English Preparatory Programme (IEPP), an initiative by UMS Investment Holdings.

Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr D. Kamarudin D. Mudin said upon completing the four-month course, students would be free to pursue a Bachelors and Postgraduate Degree of their choice at the university.

"It gives me great happiness to welcome our new group of international students enrolling into the IEPP course at the University's UCPD (Investment Centre for Professional Development) which helps students build a strong foundation to university education and develop successful careers and professions of tomorrow," he said.

From there, they will be able to further their studies to obtain a Master's Degree or even pursue a Doctorate of their chosen fields.

In his opening remarks, Kamarudin also said the 31st IEPP batch of university students can look forward to experiencing the university's rich multicultural experience owing to the culturally diverse student population at UMS.

"We have a culturally diverse student population at UMS with international students from China, Indonesia, South Korea, Cambodia, and Brunei. Additionally, the university also plans to increase this number even further, and soon our curriculum will be aligned with education systems around the world," he said.

Kamarudin said new students at UMS gain the opportunity to embrace the wider, richer and more international and multicultural worldview as well as sharing a common destiny of a globalized future.

"I trust that your time here will be intellectually and culturally rewarding, as well as providing opportunities to develop friendships by learning from each other and exchanging cultures," he said in his speech read by by Prof Dr. Jualang Azlan Abdullah Bin



Prof Dr. Jualang (seated 3rd from right) together with the 31st batch of international students enrolled for the IEPP programme this year.

Gansau, UMS Dean of the Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language learning.

The IEPP students were also reminded to study well and obtain as much knowledge, skills and experience to excel in their studies in order to

build brighter future careers. "I offer nothing but the best wishes for students to have a very fruitful and fulfilling journey of intellectual discoveries and innovation accompanied with true growth of becoming a global citizen," he said.

The IEPP has since received over 14,000 international students who joined the programme since its inception in 2003.

Among those who attended the welcoming ceremony include the Director of UMS International Office, Profes-

sor Dr. Ho Chong Mun and Associate Professor Dr Stephen Laison Sondon who represented Ramlan Awang Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer for UMS Investment Holdings Sdn Bhd and UMS Chief Representative in China, Dr. Helen Liu Rong.