

# UMS collaborate with MTIB to produce more designers, furniture makers

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) hopes that Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) will play their role to produce more potential designers and furniture makers.

Dean of the university Faculty of Science and Natural Resource, Professor Baba Musta said that the desire

was raised when both parties will be collaborating through a training programme known as 3U11.

"We expect to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) next month. Through the programme, HY11 (Science and Natural Resource) students will be able to have an opportunities to expand their knowledge and create marvellous cum interesting designs of furniture.

"Students from UMS also

able to fill the lacking skills manpower in Sabah furniture and wood based industries," he said in his remarks at the opening of a seminar on Professional Design Programme (PDP3) here, yesterday.

This is the first programme organized by MTIB and UMS in terms of giving an awareness and exposure on the art of design.

"We are confident that this kind of programmes can nurture and stimulate our sense

of design especially in wood based product or furniture for students to produce a quality masterpiece that can be of standing equal to the international standards."

Earlier he said that besides the soon-to be collaboration, another initiative by MTIB and Professional Designers Programme (PDP) is an effort in integrating designs and designers into the current Malaysian furniture production.

"The professionals will be mentoring and assisting our local TANGGAM Designers or MAKERS and they will be working hand-in-hand with 10 local makers with the end result of producing five furniture products that which will be market-ready and of high selling value.

"Immediate outcome from this programme is the continuation relationship between designers with Malaysian furniture manu-

facturers especially in Sabah to ensure holistic approach to produce marketable furniture design for export market," he said.

Baba also urged the industry to employ qualified furniture designers with skills and experience, whereby these designers will have a beneficial impact on the company's performance through improved sales, higher margins and reduced operating expenditure.