

Strive to produce holistic future generations: V-C



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KOTA KINABALU: Educators should also strive to produce holistic future generations in their endeavours to achieve material gains from science, mathematics and technology education, said Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin (pic).

He said future generations should have solid moral values and be assertive, open-minded, God-fearing and patriotic.

"These elements are essential to ensure a society that is able to sustain itself through rigorous development and change," he said in a speech read by UMS acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Rasid Mail during the opening of the 9th International Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Conference (SMTEC) at UMS, here, Wednesday.

"Without these characteristics, future generations would be without soul and vigour. Such scenario is a likelihood that we do not want, and which we need to prevent."

On the conference, he believed that the sharing of knowledge, research findings and best practices in the said fields would "help us to make informed decisions in preparing our younger generations to not only face the challenges associated with the Industrial Revolution 4.0, but also seize the various opportunities that are presented." He added that SMTEC acknowledged the contribution of teachers and researchers to human development which is critical in producing knowledge-

able and skilled youths to boost economic activities that benefit the society. "In honouring the teaching profession through academic activities, SMTEC 2017 is envisioned as contributing to the transformation of teaching into a profession of choice which is one of the shifts outlined in the Malaysia Education Blueprint," he said.

Themed "Sustaining Science, Mathematics and Technology Education for Future Generations," D Kamarudin said the theme echoed aptly the vision and mission of UMS where the learning, teaching, research and publications in these fields are positioned for the institution to become an innovative university.

Following eight successful international conferences in different parts of the world, Curtin University's STEM Research Group (formerly SMEC) held the 9th SMTEC in collaboration with UMS' Faculty of Psychology and Education.

The conference intended to bring science, mathematics and technology educators and researchers together to discuss and address issues in improving science, mathematics and technology education for the 21st century. The supportive non-threatening environment of the conference is one of its hallmarks.

Opportunities are provided to budding researchers to present their research and interact with leaders in the field.

For the ninth conference in UMS, the technical programme is rich and varied with three keynote speeches, three workshops and about 63 research papers split in parallel oral sessions.