



Yap (centre) and others at the ground breaking ceremony.

RM1m to develop IBC bricks

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TAWAU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) will develop the Community House Project through the Interlock Brick Construction (IBC) system.

Head of joint project Prof Dr. Abdul Karim Mirasa said the Ministry of Higher Education awarded RM1 million to the Translational Research Programme grant to UMS and UTM for the purpose.

"An IBC brick making machine will also be located at the Kota Kinabalu UMS campus for the construction of this community house as well as a continuous research effort to improve the construction method," he said.

Abdul Karim said the National Blue Ocean Transnational and Strategy Research (NBOs) project was based on the Industrial Building System (IBS) concept.

"Among the advantages of using this system is quick to build, easy to install, more robust and competitive cost.

"A total of eight community houses in Tawau will be built using the IBS system which will also involve industrial technical

assistance, Tawau Polytechnic and Tawau Community College," said Abdul Karim, who is UMS' Dean of Faculty of Engineering.

Touching on IBC, Abdul Karim said it was a new revolution in construction that saw bricks produced using machine-pressure methods in place of combustion methods, thus producing stronger bricks and more precise dimensions.

"This method has long been used in Europe and in other developed countries.

"In line with green technology that supports environmental sustainability, we will also use FKJ UMS research innovator Ultra-fine Palm Oil Fuel Ash and quarry waste as a part of mixed material other than cement, sand and clay," he added.

The Tawau Parliamentary Community Housing Project ground breaking ceremony was held recently in Balung and attended by Deputy Higher Education Minister, Datuk Dr Mary Yap Kain Ching, who is also Tawau MP. Also present was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) UMS, Prof. Dr. Shahril Yusof.