

Youths' hedonistic needs worrying, says UMS VC

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Khabil Kiram

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah lamented about youths' growing materialistic and hedonistic needs at the closing of the Public Universities (IPTA) Integrity Strengthening Corruption Prevention Secretariat Convention here.

"I worry, because the explosion of hedonistic culture encourages the youth generation to be caught up with materialistic advertisements that are dominated by 'icons' or idols who are stereotypical by nature.

"Success is determined by an extravagant lifestyle that is in accordance to the perception of the West, which is contradictory to our eastern values," said Harun at the UMS Chancellor Hall. He added that youths are facing an increasingly challenging environment, which constantly reinforces Western values.

"They (the youth) are looking for an identity and direction to follow. They have no goals to achieve.

"They should be taught, nurtured, and guided to realise the fact that failure to respond to the balance of material and spiritual needs will cause negative emotions, like high doubt

and excessive worrying that will leave a person with no peace of mind," said Harun.

He said that a person who has no peace of mind would be constantly filling their void with negativity, such as "black metal, free sex, drug use, and etc."

"In their search (to fill the void), this negativity will be their choice," he said.

Harun promoted eastern values, quoting Japanese writer Yasunari Kawabata who declared the 21st century as the "Asian century"

"This is the vision that is said to awaken the eastern values that will be the backbone to the rise of Asia as a significant axis among world powers."

Harun added that the eastern values could be incorporated to a university culture that promotes integrity.

"Identity empowerment is an agenda that begins on the most basic level of strengthening self-control and anchoring our morality on the value of integrity," he said.

The three day annual convention saw participation from 17 IPTAs and was organised by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, in collaboration with UMS and other participating IPTAs.



Harun presenting a certificate of participation to a representative from International Islamic University Malaysia. To his right are MACC Community Education Director Datuk Shamshun Baharin Mohd Jamil and UMS Registrar cum Integrity Month Organising Chairman Lt. Col. Datuk Abdullah Mohd Said.