



Dr Mohd Harun (second, left) handing over the MoU to Ahmad Hizzad (second right).

## Labuan UMS to offer courses on oil and gas Sept next year

DE 16.5.2013 3

**Jason Santos**

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) plans to offer certificate and diploma courses on oil and gas latest by September next year at its international campus in Labuan.

Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said on Wednesday, the soon-to-be introduced courses are part of the plan to expand a smart partnership between UMS and the Labuan Financial Services Authority (Labuan FSA).

It is a partnership which both entities sealed in June 2000.

At present, Dr Mohd Harun said the courses are already in the final stages of faculty level discussion.

However, it still needs approval from the UMS Senate and most importantly, the Ministry of Higher Education, he explained.

"We are in discussion phase with the Labuan Financial Services Authority (LFSA) for the courses to be offered in Labuan.

"This is to tap the opportunity in the industry as there are many oil firms located in the Federal Territory, which we and Labuan FSA plan to tap together," he said after the signing ceremony of a renewed collaboration between UMS-Labuan FSA, here on Wednesday.

He added for the first intake UMS may limit the number of students to between 30

and 50, as the institution still needs to look into all aspects of the courses.

Currently, UMS International Campus Labuan (UMSKAL) only has two main schools namely, Labuan School of International Business and Finance (SPKAL) and the Labuan School of Informatics Science (SSIL).

On another development, UMS and Labuan FSA have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which aims to build on and further strengthen the capacity and capability development of students.

The MoU will reinforce the intent of working together in research and development, attachment programmes, study awards, sponsorship, internship and management training through a smart - partnership programme.

Labuan FSA Director-General Ahmad Hizzad Baharuddin said there have been instances where UMS students have been absorbed into companies in Labuan as a potential future workforce.

"With one of them saying they have taken up about 20 graduates and this is comprised of students who have shown excellent education achievement," he said.

He described UMS as a platform in preparing the future workforce in related fields.