

# UMS, Sabah Ports forge partnership in marine conservation

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd (SPSB) yesterday formally launched a partnership in marine conservation.

In stressing the importance of conservation, UMS vice chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said the loss of marine biodiversity will foreclose the possibilities of exploration, innovation, discoveries and solutions to problems facing the world today.

He said, something seriously needed to be done to lessen the carbon footprint in the ocean otherwise, it will dismantle the great work of nature

going on for millions of years.

"Reports of coral bleaching, decline in fish landing and hardship facing coastal communities that depend on marine resources keep coming up.

"There is a growing body of scientific evidence that the ocean ecosystem is in a declining state and needing our attention.

"Overfishing, biodiversity loss, habitat degradation and climate change are known to have adverse effect on the ocean," he added.

Dr Mohd Harun pointed out that effective ocean governance is necessary for sustainable management of marine resources to support the vitally important blue economy of the country.

As the world looks at the ocean for food security, new sources of medicine

and mitigating the effects of climate change, a degraded ocean ecosystem will not be able to perform these roles.

"We have only in recent decades acquired the means of understanding the ocean but unfortunately this coincides with the declining state of this biggest ecosystem on earth.

"We require new perspectives and strong enforcement in ocean governance and I know it is a very complex topic involving many sectors and activities such as fisheries, transport and energy generation," said Dr Mohd Harun.

Furthermore, ocean governance is also vital for national security in Malaysia where marine area exceeds land coverage.

His speech was delivered by the



Dr Marcus (back row centre), Dr Mohd Fowzi (3rd left), Dr Saleem (2nd left) and other UMS and Sabah Ports personnel at the launching ceremony.

UMS director of strategic and academic advancement, Professor Dr Marcus Jopony at the launching ceremony of the UMS-Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd (SPSB) partnership in marine conservation at the chancellor's building here yesterday.

Dr Mohd Harun said UMS is pleased to share a platform with the public and private sectors in matters concerning environment.

"As an institution of higher ed-

ucation we are alive to our responsibility towards environment and deliver it through education, research, generation of new ideas and human resource development," he said.

Also present were UMS Borneo Marine Research Institute director, Professor Dr Saleem Mustafa and managing director of SPSB cum group managing director of Suria Capital Holdings Bhd, Datuk Dr Mohd Fowzi Haji Razi.