



Dr Patawari (right) presenting a memento to Prof. Harun (left) while Ng (first left) and George look on.

UMS to continue JV programmes

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will let UMS Link Holdings continue to play its role as the investment arm and generate income for the institute, said Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk Mohd Harun Abdullah.

He said UMS Link Holdings had many off campus partnership programmes able to generate income for the university.

Towards this end, he welcomed the joint-venture initiatives between UMS Link and a local company, Silverkris Sdn Bhd, to set up UMS Link-Silverkris to run the oil and gas diploma programme through the TAS Institute of Oil and Gas for the past five years.

Prof. Harun said this when

receiving a courtesy call by Silverkris Sdn Bhd top brass led by Chairman Datuk Dr Patawari Patawe together with Managing Director Willie Ng and Chief Executive Officer George BH Bandusena at the Chancellery Building in UMS, near here, Thursday.

He said while UMS already had in mind to offer oil and gas degree programme, but he agreed with Dr Patawari who earlier said that the diploma programme offered by TAS Institute of Oil and Gas caters for the niche market as it is providing skilled workers for the sector.

So far, there is no decision on the programme but the oil and gas school would most probably be set up here, he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Patawari told him that the diploma programme offered by TAS Institute of Oil and Gas (formerly known as Tun Ahmadshah Abdullah Oil and Gas Academy) is very much sought because it is an official BTEC International Learning Centre, offering an internationally-recognised certification.

He said students graduating from the academy were skilled workers and ready to work in the oil and gas sector anywhere in the world.

However, the main emphasis of the institute as of now was to capitalise on the oil and gas in Sabah that accounts for 40 per cent of activities in the sector in the country.

"Our local involvement in the sector is minimal what more for workers. Therefore, our main aim is to provide training to local youths who might not do so well in their SPM and give them skills through the short diploma course and then provide the needed workforce in the state," he said.

At the same time, the institute was also planning to set up Skill Training Centre in Labuan, Tawau and State Capital. Should UMS' plan to offer the new oil and gas degree programme, he said these training centres would act as feeder to the programme.

He also informed Prof Harun that the first batch of 45 graduates in 2008 were now working with international oil companies in Europe and some locally with a very handsome monthly income.