

YS-UMS sign MoU on long-term R&D

BORNEO MAIL SABTU 4, Januari 2003

By Sunar Tuniran

KOTA KINABALU: Yayasan Sabah (YS) and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding for a long-term research and development programme for sustainable forest resources in the State.

The memorandum was signed by YS director Tan Sri Khalil Datu Jamalul and UMS Vice Chancellor Tan Sri Prof. Dr. Abu Hassan Othman and witnessed by Finance Minister Datuk Haji Musa Aman.

Khalil said the co-operation was significant in saving Sabah's timber industry, which solely relies on supplies from natural forests.

He said the MoU is also expected to lessen dependence on timber from tropical forest.

"As of today, UMS has matured and is beginning to be recognised

as a resourceful higher learning institution on its ability and strength via dynamic and visionary leadership," he said.

He was speaking at the signing ceremony of the MoU at Tun Mustapha Tower in Likas near here, yesterday.

Khalil said UMS has proven its expertise in fish breeding and seaweed cultivation as well as herbs cultivation and processing.

He said all these fields have big potential where YS is actively penetrating as new commercial ventures.

"As such, YS is in need of supporting manpower and specialist consultation to ensure the efforts would succeed," he said.

He said YS would act as venturer and implementor while UMS as researcher and adviser.

Meanwhile, Abu Hassan said the MoU, among others, involved R&D co-operation for mutual ben-

efits in education, commercial and natural science.

He said it is also to enhance co-operation in bio-diversity and sustainable forest preservation apart from training and human resource development.

"The memorandum also paves the way for co-operation to create and award research grants when in need and set up funds for such purpose," he said.

Abu Hassan said the close co-operation between both parties is not new because it has been there since the early establishment of the university in 1994.

He said YS has assisted to realise the enrolment of 205 UMS pioneer students by giving them accommodation at Kolej Komuniti YS in 1995.

"On behalf of UMS I would like to convey gratitude and thanks to YS for relaying such assistance and co-operation," he said.