

UMS trains 54 foreign govt officers

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has trained 54 government officers from 16 countries under the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) on managing conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, last year.

The countries who participated in the programme were India, Kenya, Uganda, Brunei Darussalam, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, Tanzania and Sri Lanka among others.

UMS Vice Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said that TCTP training course aims mainly to share experiences with other developing nations in administrating and instigating conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in an integrated manner.

This year marks the beginning of the second cycle of TCTP in Sabah and will continue until 2015.

He said, this year, UMS has 13 participants from Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Vietnam, Tanza-

nia and newly chosen country, Botswana.

"The previous participants have expressed fervent satisfaction and delight with the contents of the training course.

They are now our friends as well as potential partners in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation endeavours," he said in his welcoming speech at the opening ceremony of TCTP at UMS here, yesterday.

The conduct of this year's TCTP entitled 'Integrated Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Training Course' is in line with the Malaysia National Biodiversity Policy which envisages Malaysia to be the centre of excellence on conservation, research and utilisation of tropical biological diversity by the year 2020.

Additionally, the course intends to assist participants in understanding the key elements of Malaysia's experience in project planning, management and evaluation.

Among the objectives are to provide relevant knowledge and skills on conservation management from the plan-



Dr Harun (right) presents a memento to Shinobu at TCTP opening ceremony

ning to evaluation to the participants and to familiarise them with integration between implementing agencies and the locals for better understanding of alternative livelihood in conservation efforts.

UMS through the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ITBC) has been co-ordinating the programme in

East Malaysia since 2009.

Together with the Natural Resource Office of the State Government, UMS has been working hand-in-hand with other state agencies namely Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah Wildlife Department, Sabah Parks and Sabah Biodiversity Centre (SaBC) in organising the training course.

Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry and the Japanese government through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) jointly finance the programme.

Also present was JICA representative, Shinobu Yoshizawa.