



Harun (front centre) with VIPs and participants of the Third Country Training Programme.

UMS holds second cycle of Third Country Training Programme

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KOTA KINABALU: The second cycle of the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) officially started yesterday at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) with 13 participants from Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Vietnam, Tanzania and Botswana.

"This year marks the beginning of the second cycle of TCTP in Sabah. Training courses for the first cycle were successfully conducted between 2009 and 2010. This second cycle will take place annually until 2015," UMS vice chancellor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said when launching the opening ceremony yesterday.

"The TCTP training course in Sabah aims mainly to share experiences with other developing nations in managing and instigating conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in an integrated and coordinated manner," he said.

Harun also said UMS, through the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ITBC), had been coordinating the

programme in East Malaysia since 2009.

Together with the Natural Resource Office (NRO) under the state government, UMS has been working hand-in-hand with other agencies, namely the Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah Wildlife Department, Sabah Parks and Sabah Biodiversity Centre (SaBC) in organizing the course.

"Sabah ventured into the first year of successful collaboration with the Japanese government through the Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation (BBEC) project in 2012. The BBEC project has been implemented to coordinate all Sabah state's agencies and stakeholders to achieve a common goal of conserving Sabah's rich biodiversity and diverse ecosystem. It has been an accomplishment so far.

"Subsequently, in order to disseminate the achievements and triumphs of the BBEC project nationally and internationally, UMS works closely with NRO in coordinating this training

course," said Harun.

He added that the TCTP programme in Sabah had been a success and had given positive impacts to the participants.

At the end of the first cycle, the programme has trained 54 government officers from 16 countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, India, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda and Malaysia.

"The 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 endeavors," Harun elaborated.

Also present at the event were director of Sabah Regional Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mahruzahrin Maskan and a representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Shinobu Yoshizawa.