

Sabah again serving as an example on biodiversity conservation

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KOTA KINABALU: Sabah is once again serving as an example to other developing nations on managing the conservation of biodiversity in an integrated and coordinated manner.

According to Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah this year marks the beginning of the second cycle of the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) entitled 'The Integrated Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Training Course'.

He said UMS through the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ITBC) had been coordinating the programme since 2009.

"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 which starts this year will take place annually until 2015."

Universiti Malaysia Sabah through the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ITBC), has been coordinating this programme in East Malaysia since 2009.

Mohd Harun said this at the opening of the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) event at UMS on Monday.

He said together with the Natural Resource Office (NRO) under the Sabah State, UMS has been working hand-in-hand



Dr Harun

with other Sabah agencies, namely the Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah Wildlife Department, Sabah Parks, and Sabah Biodiversity Centre (SaBC) in organising the training course.

"This training course has been placed under the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme or MTCP, which is now under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Wisma Putra. MTCP and the Japanese Government through JICA jointly finance this training course.

"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."

Mohd Harun said Sabah has ventured into the 10th year of successful collaboration with the Japanese Government through the Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation or BBEC project in 2012.

"The BBEC project has been implemented to coordinate all State agencies and stakeholders to achieve a common goal of conserving Sabah's rich biodiversity and diverse ecosystems. 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."

He added the TCTP programme in Sabah has been a

success, and has given positive impacts to the participants.

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

"The participants have expressed their 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.

There were a total of 13 participants from Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Vietnam, Tanzania and a newly chosen country Botswana.