

Scientific cooperation on Danum

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By
Shtul
Mintow

KOTA KINABALU: A Memorandum of Understanding signed between Universiti Malaysia Sabah and the Royal Society of London has paved the way for scientific cooperation in various research areas in the State.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Abu Hassan Othman yesterday said in conjunction with the MoU signing ceremony at the UMS Campus in Likas Bay that it would enable both sides to undertake significant researches on tropical rainforests.

He said although the MoU signing only took place yesterday, collaboration efforts between UMS and the Royal Society towards promoting research in the rainforest of Southeast Asia, especially in Danum Valley had been on-going since early 1995.

Abu Hassan said the Danum Valley was one of the well-known and the best rainforest research centres in Southeast Asia.



SIGNED AND SEALED ... Abu Hassan (left) and Clutton exchange documents after the signing ceremony yesterday.

He said UMS and the Royal Society's efforts were formalised through the MoU.

'We hope that through the MoU we would be able to carry out quality researches,' he said.

He also assured that UMS would cooperate fully with the Royal Society's scientists in research works, provide temporary office and research work space for them.

'We would like to thank the Danum Valley Management Committee for their cooperation in giving us access to the research centre and all organisations as well as individuals who have contributed to the success of this undertaking (MoU),' he said.

He said this would enable both countries to benefit from the collaborations and cooperations.

Meanwhile in his speech, chairman of the Southeast Asia Rainforest Research Programme of the Royal Society, Professor T.H. Clutton Brock described the MoU signing as a historic event.

He said the Danum Valley Field Centre had been the main focus since the inception of SEARR in the early 1980s in response to mounting concern for the future of tropical rainforests.