

UMS signs deal with Renaissance

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Renaissance Hotel Kota Kinabalu.

The collaboration will enable UMS students to undergo comprehensive training in the hospitality and tourism industry.

"The students would be able to experience real working atmosphere," said UMS vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Abu Hassan Othman.

"Hotel facilities are set up at the Likas Square where students would have the chance to learn the various functions of the hotel and tourism industry," Abu Hassan said.

He said the university also planned to provide short-term courses in the hospitality field for those who are already in the industry and those wishing to upgrade their knowledge. "The courses will focus on management and supervisory level," he said.

Tourism and Environment Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said the MoU was timely for a smart partnership between the two parties.

"The State government is committed to making Sabah as a tourist destination in Asia especially in the BIMP-EAGA region. Such smart partnership will bring us closer to the development of our tourism industry," he said.



SIGNED AND SEALED ... Abu Hassan (left) and Ng (right) exchanging documents, while Dompok (centre) looks on yesterday.

Dompok added the private sectors had invested about RM1.47 billion in the building of hotels and resorts in the West Coast area.

"This reflects the bright potential of the hospitality and tourism industry in the future," he said.

By the year 2000, he added, the hotel industry will be able to provide a total of 11,861 job opportunities for skilled labour and 3,744 for unskilled labour.

UMS is the first higher institution to provide first

degree in the hotel courses in Malaysia.

"The government also needs creative and proactive graduates who are able to produce new interesting ideas and packages to upgrade the quality of services to attract tourists to come," Dompok said.

A total of ten students are in the first batch of the UMS Hospitality Programme.

Meanwhile, Renaissance managing director Peter Ng said they hoped to work closely with UMS in the certificate and diploma programmes.

30 NOVEMBER 1997
BORNEO MAIL