

Collaborate with Malaysian institutions on ant research, UMS tells ANet

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KOTA KINABALU: Now it's time Myrmecologists (ant researcher) Asia explores other elements of biodiversity cataloging ants, said University President Anet Pattiala India, Dr. Bharti Himender.

He said that different areas will not only help to bridge the gap in knowledge of the researchers but also open to young researchers to explore different areas and spaces.

"We need to explore something else such as molecular biology, ecology and phylogenetic to generate a holistic view of the ants in Asia," he said in his speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 9th ANet 2013 International Confer-

ence at the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ITBC), UMS, yesterday.

In the meantime, as it has been highlighted in previous ANet conference, Himender consider researchers should create a database for Asia ant biodiversity to help catalog the ants from Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, in his speech said ANet 9th International Conference specifically discuss about the ant insects which attracted a number of young researchers in Asia.

The conference was held for the second time at UMS after the last time which was held 13 years ago, he said.

"Ant species were identified among

UMS specifically; and ITBC has been the host to local and international researchers from 15 years ago.

"It turns out that many people here along with the ITBC managed to be a combination of continuous research at UMS," he said.

His speech was delivered by the UMS Chief Librarian, Dayang Rukiah Amit Ag.

Aaron said UMS is a Federal entity operating in Sabah acting as a key institution conducting, coordinating and facilitating research activities in collaboration with government agencies namely Sabah Forestry Department.

Also present were the Acting Director of UMS ITBC, Assoc Prof. Dr. Charles S. Vairappan and other distinguished guests.



Dr. Himender (left) and Dr. Charles (right) presenting a souvenir to Rukiah Maiden (centre), who represented Dr. Aaron.