

UMS, NIOSH sign MoU

NST 15.2.2014 6

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have signed a memorandum of understanding to engage in consultation as well as research and development on subjects related to OSH (occupational, safety, health).

The agreement was signed between UMS vice chancellor, Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah and NIOSH chairman, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye at the Chancellory building of UMS yesterday.

The other signatories were NIOSH executive secretary, Ayop Salleh, UMS registrar, Datuk Abdullah Mohd Said, UMS Safety and Health Occupational Centre director, Associate Prof Dr Shamsul Bahari Shamsudin and NIOSH Sabah & Labuan regional director, Mohd Hussin Abd Salam.

"This MoU will also open up space for UMS and NIOSH to generate products or new

services together that are based on creativity and innovation.

"Among the subjects that we can explore are the development of teaching labs, an OSH exhibition centre, chemical and equipment testing laboratories, stimulation competency programmes and more," said Lee.

Lee also welcomed the suggestion by Dr Harun for NIOSH to work together with UMS to develop training modules and working papers on promoting OSH in Malaysia.

The effort is in line with the Malaysia OSH Master Plan 2015 which stated that the main aim of the OSH-MP 15 is to build a safe, healthy and productive pool of human capital by creating, cultivating and sustaining a safe and healthy work culture in all organisations throughout Malaysia.

"NIOSH through community engagement, enhancing government leadership and strong partnership hopes to achieve this target together with UMS," added Lee.

Meanwhile, Dr Harun said

UMS has embarked on an effort to implement the Occupational Health Safety Management System (OHSMS) MS1722:2011 to reduce health and occupational risk at the workplace and hopes to achieve its objective through the help of NIOSH.

In conjunction with UMS' 20th anniversary celebration, Dr Harun said: "UMS is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of employees and any other persons that might be affected by the operation of the organisation.

"Reasonable effort will be taken to eliminate hazards that could lead to accidents and injuries through continuous improvement in line with the Health and Safety Act and other relevant laws and regulations."

He said the management of UMS would promote the importance of a safety culture in the campus among its staff and 17,000 students.

In doing so, he said UMS could save money on medical expenses for injured workers and increase the premium compensation on their insurance.



Lee (third right) speaking to reporters after the MoU signing ceremony together with (from left) Dr Shamsul, Abdullah, Dr Harun, Ayop and Hussin.