



Juhar (right) presenting Gusmao with a Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations at UMS on Wednesday



Bendito Dos Santos Freitas (left) shaking hands with Harun as Juhar (second left) and Gusmao watch

# Hub for O&G human resources at UMS

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) plans to be the hub for creating human resources for the State's oil & gas industry, which will be worth over RM45 billion by 2015, and creating over 16,000 jobs across Malaysia, annually.

Since 2012, over RM45 billion worth of investments have been channelled to the State's oil & gas industry and is slated to be fully up and running by 2015, according to UMS vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Harun Abdullah.

He said that the investments

include upstream investments totalling to RM28 billion and downstream investments totalling RM17 billion.

"Some of the major projects include the Gumusut-Kakap Oil Field, Kinabalu NAG Gas Field and Keabangan Oil & Gas Field for the upstream investments.

"Whilst for the downstream investments it includes Sabah Oil & Gas Terminal (SOGT) in Kimanis, Sabah-Sarawak Gas Pipeline (SSGP), the Sabah Ammonia & Urea (SAMUR) Plant and the Liquefied Natural Gas Re-gasification (LNGR) Terminal.

"The recent discoveries of major oil & gas fields in Limbayong off the shores of Sabah

further buoy the extremely bright future of the oil & gas future of Sabah," said Harun in his speech.

His speech was delivered during "Commemorative Convocation Ceremony" for the conferment of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations to Timor-Leste President Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao at UMS here yesterday morning.

Harun added that UMS is planning to become the hub for developing skilled human resource to support the State's oil & gas industry, which is expected to create over 16,000 jobs annually across Malaysia.

To reflect this, UMS is introducing an undergraduate

Bachelor's Programme in Oil & Gas Engineering, which is expected to start in September this year.

The university is also introducing 10 engineering diploma programmes in the area of process, instrumentation, mechanical, electrical and utility engineering.

Five of those programmes are offered at the executive diploma level and five other programmes offered at the regular diploma level.

Harun also said that UMS has already been offering an exclusive Masters in Engineering Course specialising in the field of oil & gas since mid-2011.

"Hence, this formed the

main motivation for UMS to make a historic visit to Timor-Leste in February 2014 to meet with the country's top officials to offer our assistance to develop the newly-formed nation's human resources in the area," said Harun.

Timor-Leste's petroleum fund is currently worth over US\$15 billion (RM45 billion), according to Gusmao.

After the commemorative convocation ceremony, UMS also saw a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the university and Timor-Leste's Ministry of Education and Ministry of Petroleum & Mineral Resource.

The MoU was signed by Harun and Timor-Leste's Min-

ister of Education Bendito Dos Santos Freitas.

Witnessing the signing were Gusmao, Sabah's Head of State-cum-UMS chancellor Tun Dr Juhar Mahiruddin, National Petroleum Authority of Timor-Leste Gualdino Da Silva Carmo and UMS registrar Datuk Abdullah Mohammad Said.

Harun said that based on the MoU, UMS would be providing its expertise and skills to create a training scheme for Timor-Leste's Oil & Gas industry.

He added that so far, 30 trainers from Timor-Leste have been selected by UMS to enrol in UMS' diploma programme, which will be focusing on Oil & Gas.