



UMS Chancellor Tun Juhar presenting the Honorary Doctor of Philosophy to Timor-Leste PM Xanana Gusmao (left).

Gusmao conferred honorary doctorate by UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: Prime Minister cum Minister of Defense and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Xanana Gusmao, was yesterday conferred the Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations in a commemorative convocation ceremony at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

The honorary doctorate was presented to Gusmao by the Chancellor of UMS, Sabah's Head of State TYT Tun Haji Juhar Mahiruddin.

Also present at the event were Deputy Minister of Defense, Datuk Rahim Bakri and Deputy Chief Ministers, Datuk Raymond Tan,

Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Pairin Kitingan, Datuk Seri Panglima Yahya Hussin and other Cabinet Ministers.

Gusmao, who was on the last lap of his tour of ASEAN countries, said all the member countries were extremely supportive of his country's move to join ASEAN.

The ASEAN Coordination Council had established a Working Group (ACC Working Group) to discuss issues related to Timor-Leste's request to be part of ASEAN, he said.

"Although we are the youngest nation in the region, we already have a strong sense of regionalism and we have been adopting public policies that fit in this development framework," Gusmao said when explaining the readiness of his country to join ASEAN.