

UMS inks oil and gas training MoU with Timor-Leste

KOTA KINABALU: More human capital with expertise in the oil and gas industry is expected to be produced for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Timor-Leste's Education Ministry and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

Under the MoU that was signed at UMS yesterday and witnessed by the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Honourable Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, a total of 30 trainees from Timor-Leste will be selected to undertake study under a training scheme in UMS for certificate and diploma in Oil and Gas.

According to UMS vice-chancellor, Datuk Dr. Mohd. Harun Abdullah, the MoU will increase the number of international students and enhance the image of UMS internationally.

Harun pointed out to the importance of the oil and gas industry, stating that Sabah has been a major contributor to Malaysia's oil and gas production since the early 1970s.

He added that the State looks set to become an even bigger player in the industry very soon with a RM45 billion worth of investments having come online since 2012 and slated to be fully up and running by next year.

"With Sabah's vast forays into

the industry, UMS has taken the initiative to develop skilled manpower required to support this expanding industry in the State," he said, and announced that its Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology offers the first ever Masters in Engineering Course in Malaysia with graduate students in mid-2011.

"We are also set to roll out a new undergraduate Bachelor's Programme in Oil and Gas Engineering, expected to have its inaugural batch intake in September this year," Harun added.

The MoU yesterday was signed between Timor-Leste's Minister



Freitas (left) exchanging the signed MoU with Harun (right) observed by TYT Tun Juhar (second left) and Xanana Gusmao (second right).

of Education Bendito Dos Santos Freitas, representing Timor-Leste, and vice-chancellor Harun, representing UMS.

The signing ceremony was followed by the launching of UMS-Timor Leste Liaison Centre at the Academic and Research Gallery,

Chancellery Building UMS. The liaison centre aims to strengthen relationship between UMS and the republic.