

By **MARRYAN RAZAN**
marryan@newsabah-
times.com.my

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is actively implementing various programmes to turn the university into an environmentally friendly campus, or eco campus.

Its Director of Eco Campus Management Centre, Dr. Awangku Hassanah Bahar Pengiran Bagul said UMS launched its five-year Eco Campus Action Plan (2013-2017) in February last year and also the Green Office Awareness Campaign.

"Through the action plan, UMS hopes to achieve full eco campus status by 2017 and becomes the first university in Malaysia to do so," he said when met by reporters at the first Regional Confer-

ence on Campus Sustainability held in UMS.

Dr. Awangku Hassanah said other universities had implemented various sustainability programmes, but to become an eco-friendly campus, UMS needed to look at all aspects including curriculum and resource management.

He hoped that UMS would become a referral centre on environment conservation for institutes of higher learning aspiring to become environmentally friendly campus in the future.

"Since the launch of the Eco Campus Action Plan last year, UMS has introduced a variety of changes in terms of human resource management. Last year, we managed to reduce paper usage by 20 per cent," he said.

"Other efforts undertaken by UMS to achieve

eco-friendly campus include ensuring the university hospital obtain the Green Building Index (GBI) certification.

"If this can be realised, we will have the first green hospital in the country," Dr. Awangku Hassanah said.

He added that UMS was also in the process of establishing a recycling centre on campus to facilitate the recycling of waste materials.

"This recycling centre will be completed in June. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with a company to manage the centre," he said, adding that recycled products would be sold and the proceeds would be used to fund the greening programmes on campus.

More than 100 participants attended the two-day conference, which ended yesterday.