



Dr Mohd Harun receiving a memento from Dr Ramraini.

## UMS has established entrepreneurship devt centre — VC

BP-30.5.2014 4

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is committed to producing competitive entrepreneurs, in line with the government's vision to strengthen the role of higher learning institutions as a catalyst for the country's economic development.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah, said UMS fully supported the Entrepreneurship Development Policy for Higher Learning Institute developed by the Ministry of Education, towards creating innovative and creative business-minded graduates.

Speaking at the closing of the ERDEC Entrepreneurship Carnival at the University yesterday, he noted that UMS has established a centre dedicated to entrepreneurship development among the students, which has recorded some measure of success since its inception.

"Among the important achievement of ERDEC (Entrepreneurship Development Centre) included the hosting of the International Conference on Entrepreneurship (ICE) and the Windows to the World exhibition held in October last year.

"The events, organized in collaboration with MARA, was held at 1Borneo and managed to attract many local and international participants," he said, adding that UMS will continue its effort in promoting entrepreneurship among its students through ERDEC and other initiatives.

Set up about a year ago, the ERDEC's main role is to plan, monitor and assess entrepreneurship development programmes and activities for UMS. It serves as the leading body in research and development in entrepreneurship related aspects as well as getting the students directly or indirectly involved in

entrepreneurship activities.

Since its setting up about a year ago, ERDEC has secured funding amounting to RM280,000, which was used for the UMS Incubator Programme to train students into becoming highly competitive business owners.

"The centre has also organised several activities aimed at instilling entrepreneurship values among UMS students, including seminar, talks and workshops. Apart from our own students, these events were also opened to entrepreneurs who wished to improve their knowledge in this field," he said.

Meanwhile, ERDEC's director, Dr. Ramraini Ali Hassan, said, UMS has had many students with sound business plan even before the setting up of ERDEC, while some of them have become successful business operators.

"Our students from the Degree in Entrepreneurship programme have been developing successful business plans, some of them have even become business owners. If we look at our alumni, there are at least 20 graduates who have successfully started their own business after six months to a year of leaving UMS," she said.

The Carnival saw various programmes being held, such as an incubator programme which included a two-day business management course and exhibition booth for the participating students. There were also workshop and business plan competition.

"We encourage our students to generate their own income. So, we get them to prepare their own business plan and invite related parties such as the bank to come in and evaluate for themselves if the business plan can materialize or not. If the plan is good, the bank will provide certain amount to be invested in their business," she said.