

# UMS aims to be country's first energy efficient campus



Dr Shahril (right) and Dr Hassanal.

BY ERIC BAGANG

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is aiming for certification as the first energy efficient campus in the country from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

UMS EcoCampus Management Centre Director, Dr Awangku Hassanal Bahar Pengiran Bagul said there are several steps involved in order to achieve the energy efficient campus status, including drafting a five-year plan which starts with a monitoring programme to calculate energy consumption followed by the development and maintenance of a green office.

"We launched the EcoCampus Management Centre in July 2013 where we focused on a green office," he said while adding that the effort will then be audited by the Sustainable Energy Development Authority Malaysia (SEDA) to be nominated for the certification. Dr Awangku Hassanal was speaking at the inauguration of a two-day Energy Management Course organised by the EcoCampus Management Centre, UMS and SEDA here yesterday.

Since the greening programme started, he said the campus has managed to reduce energy consumption by 20 per cent through various events including talks on awareness.

He stressed that UMS is committed in its quest to be an energy efficient campus as it is also the first Malaysian university to become a member of the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN).

Members of the network comprise of Ivy League universities including Yale, Harvard, Oxford, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Meanwhile, UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Dr Shahril Yusof, who officiated at the event pointed out that reducing energy consumption however, has to be realistic because the campus population is growing at a rate of 10 per cent every year.

"After 20 years, most of the buildings and equipment in this campus are old and not energy efficient, including the high energy consuming air chilling systems.

"So we might need to upgrade them or even renovate the buildings to make them greener," he said while adding that new buildings in the campus will take into account the aspect of energy efficiency.

Also present yesterday was SEDA Deputy Director, Steve Lojuntin.

The course was participated by representatives from all the schools and institutes in UMS.