



Harun (centre) in a group photo with TCTP participants after the launching yesterday.

UMS hosting Third Country Training Program

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is currently hosting the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP), a collaborative effort between Malaysia and Japan to share with participants the knowledge and technical know-how derived from their joint venture conservation projects in Sabah.

The three-week course, which will be held until August 27, is participated by 20 government officers from Kenya, Uganda, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Harun Abdullah, in his welcoming remarks, said the main objective of TCTP was to share with the participating developing nations Malaysia's experience in managing and implementing biodiversity and ecosystem conservation strategies in integrated and coordinated manner.

The programme, he added, was an excellent example of successful triangular cooperation between Japan, Malaysia and other developing nations.

"TCTP has been nothing short of commendable triumph, and

has proffered positive impacts to the participants, who have expressed fervent satisfaction and delight with the contents and execution of the training course.

"They are now our friends as well as potential partners in biodiversity and ecosystem conservations endeavours," he said.

This is the second training course for the second cycle of the TCTP since its introduction five years ago.

Courses for the first cycle were successfully held in 2009 and 2011 with a total 54 participants, while the first course for the second cycle last year attracted 13 participants.

So far those who have joined the training were all government officers from developing nations, which also included Brunei, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, India, Mali, Tanzania and Botswana.

The hosting university, UMS serves as the coordinating body, together with the Natural Resources Office of Sabah, with support from the Forestry Department, Wildlife Department, Sabah Parks and Sabah Biodiversity Centre.

Meanwhile, Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) Malaysia representative, Shinobu Yoshizawa, said a lecturer from Japan, Professor Hiroyuki Matsuda will be on hand for the course where he was expected to discuss the UNESCO MAB and SATOYAMA initiatives.

TCTP was born following an agreement between the Japanese and Malaysian governments to disseminate the outcome of Borneo Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation (BBEC) implemented in Sabah from 2002 to 2012 and its continuation, the four-year Sustainable Development for Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation in Sabah (SDBEC) project introduced last July.

The training course, which has been placed under the jurisdiction of the Malaysian Foreign Affairs Ministry, is hoped to serve as a platform for strengthening international network of biodiversity conservation between related organizations worldwide.

Also present was director of Foreign Affairs Sabah Regional Office, Mahruzahrin Maskan, representing the Policy and Strategy Planning Department of Foreign Affairs Ministry's Director General.