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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), with 999 acres of fascinating landscape and lush greeneries as well as a breathtaking ocean view, has become the first Malaysian public university to offer eco-campus tour to visitors.

And, this was made possible after UMS implemented the environmental management system in 2013.

“Ecotourism captured 40 to 60 per cent of the tourism industry in Malaysia and contributed some 12 per cent of the national gross domestic product,” said Community Development & Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Jainab Ahmad at the launch of ‘UMS Eco-campus Tour’ at the university’s Tropical Biology & Conservation Research Institute yesterday.

The product offers a half and full day package to visit the museum, marine aquarium, gallery, mosque, chancellor hall, outdoor development centre (ODEC) and academic & research gallery.

The ecotourism tour is handled by the Eco-campus Management Centre set up under the supervision of the vice chancellor’s office to implement the ecology conservation programmes.

UMS has aimed to be a full-fledged eco-campus by 2017.

UMS vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said the ecotourism programme has already attracted interests from cycling club whose members could be seen exploring the campus during the weekends.

“There are also agencies carrying out camping activities in the ODEC,” he said adding that there has been an increase in the number of foreign tourists visiting the campus.

Meanwhile, Dr Harun said this programme has enabled UMS to foster a closer relationship with the community and provided an opportunity for the university to generate some income.

UMS first public varsity to offer eco-campus tour



Jainab (left) accompanied by Dr Harun looking at one of the ecotourism exhibits