

Recipients of the Postgraduate Awards 2014 pictured in a group photo.



UMS role to produce future leaders: VC

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has vowed to stay committed to shaping, apart from producing successful future generations.

"Education is seen as an important platform to the development of excellent human capital who are the prime movers of mainstream development," said its Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.

He said this during the presentation of Postgraduate Awards themed 'Success as the Transformation of Excellence' at the university's Chancellor Hall, here, Wednesday.

He explained the role of a university, especially UMS, is to produce future leaders to continue the legacy of the country's excellence based on the Malaysian identity.

"We need to be bold to do things out of the ordinary and rejuvenate in terms of our academic culture.



Dr Harun

"Throughout the process of rejuvenation, lots of efforts had been done by the university among its students, for example our involvement and collaborations with industries to increase the potential of our researches," he said, adding that students through this are capable of producing outstanding research outcomes.

Besides that, Harun said their network with other research universities will also assist UMS in moving towards excellence in the field of research.

"Students should be able to benefit from our network with these universities," he said, adding that they are currently collaborating with a total of five research universities in Malaysia to increase the output and quality in terms of research as well as publishing.

The intake of postgraduate students from around the globe as well as Malaysia also allows students to be exposed to a more dynamic way of studying as well as creating a competitive and challenging environment.

UMS students, he said, are also capable of being at the same level as those international ones and based on the 2014 statistics, a total of 38 postgradu-

ates participated in local conferences and another 10 of them were sent to international conferences.

He also said there were among them those who had won awards from the conferences they attended this year such as the 'Outstanding Oral Presentation' by Chan Pei Teng in Phuket, Thailand, 'Best Presenter' by Abdul Majid in Australia and others.

Harun stated that in 2013, 56 per cent of UMS graduates had successfully started their career paths locally and internationally within months of graduating.

"This year, a total of 589 postgraduate and PhD students received their scrolls and the total shows an excellent increase with the university's effort to produce highly educated graduates," he said.

The event also saw a total of 72 postgraduates receiving the Postgraduate Aspiration Awards while 20 others received the Best Masters and PhD Theses Awards, Excellent Students Awards for Research and Course Work Studies, Best Students (Course Work) Based on Programme Awards as well as the Best Supervisor Awards.