

Strong STEM skills needed to build competitive nation

By MOHD IZHAM HASHIM

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KOTA KINABALU: Building the nation's competitiveness means investing in talent equipped with strong foundation in science, technology, mathematics and engineering to produce a reliable, skilled and competent future workforce.

"In order to gain a competitive edge in this era of technology, the inclusion of multidisciplinary projects is calling for emphasis for innovation in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)," said Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Prof Datuk Dr Kamarudin D. Mudin.

In his officiating address at the launching of the 8th Asian Conference on Engineering Education (ACEE 2019), Kamarudin noted that special

emphasis needs to focus on practical innovative engineering and reform in teaching models, particularly in the implementation of STEM education paradigm. The text of his speech was read by the UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International Relations) Prof. Dr Rasid Mail.

He noted ACEE 2019 is aimed at strengthening international cooperation and exchanges in the field of engineering education and promote the development of engineering education.

"We hope that participants will benefit from this conference and build their capacity to contribute and enhance their knowledge in the field of STEM," said Dr. Kamarudin.

He noted the conference which saw involvement of 60 international participants

from Japan, Korea, China and Malaysia joining the programme held from June 24-26, provided the opportunity for mutual exchange and engineering education among educators, students and engineers in Asia.

The programme will also feature two distinguished speakers who will share their research knowledge in various computer science, engineering and technology research fields. Among the keynote speakers include Professor Takao Hanabusa from Tokushima University, Japan.

The 8th ACEE 2019 with this year's theme "Innovation in Education for Global Business" is a joint effort between UMS Engineering Faculty and the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy in collaboration with the Korea Maritime and Ocean University.



Rasid (2nd from left) presenting a memento to Hanabusa at the launching of the conference.