

UMS hosts workshop to empower entrepreneurs

By MOHD IZHAM B. HASHIM

KOTA KINABALU: About 40 participants attended a workshop to enhance interdisciplinary knowledge and research collaboration into resolving socio-economic issues in Sabah, organised by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and the University of Westminster London.

UMS Vice-chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr. D Kamaruddin D. Mudin said the programme gathered academicians from 25 institutions in the United Kingdom and Malaysia in the workshop called Social Innovation Entrepreneurial Learning (SITEL).

"I'm confident participants will have a transformative experience during the workshop in which the five team entrepreneurial learning sets will result with impact social innovation projects for the people of Sabah, by the people of Sabah, collaborating with universities across Malaysia and also the UK," he said.

The text of his speech was delivered by the UMS Dean of the

Faculty of Science and Natural Resources, Prof. Dr Baba Musta.

The workshop will create five trans-disciplinary entrepreneurial learning sets around key local issues with researchers from both countries working together to identify potential research projects and collaborations to promote further development in the said areas.

According to workshop head, Dr Ainurul Rosli, the social innovation projects throughout the five-day workshop will be focusing on five focus areas which includes agro-tourism project in Kundasang, livestock project in Keningau, mulberry project in Tuaran, Stingless bee project in Kiulu and the Banana project in Kota Marudu.

During the launching of the workshop, Prof Baba Musta also presented graduation certificates to 19 rural small holders from Beluran who completed the entrepreneurial learning workshop

Prof. Kamarudin said the workshop aims to identifying synergies between



INNOVATIVE ... Prof Baba Musta (back row, 2nd right) and participants together with graduates who completed the entrepreneurial learning workshop.

existing research and promote future trans and multidisciplinary research projects and collaborations.

He said this includes focus on creating awareness on the importance of improving the resilience

of social development services provision and linking activities during the workshop to practical challenges that researchers address throughout their work.

"The workshop also sets to create

a working group with defined learning criteria from the workshop to foster the right skills needed for innovation relevant to the theme of the group and building links for future collaboration," he added.