

# UMS inks MOU towards industrial relevance

NST 20.4.2018 8

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KOTA KINABALU: In the initiative to bolster ties with industry partners, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Malaysia Timber industry Board (MTIB) to deepen university-industry training cooperation.

UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr. Kamarudin D. Mudin said the MTIB will become the Industry Lead Body (ILB) in providing guidance and assistance in the field of timber expertise and provide a more conducive, learning experience for students enrolled for industry training.

The MOU will enhance cooperation between the university and the MTIB to facilitating the 3u1i (3 years University + 1 year industry) training programme aimed at enhancing the employability of graduates and further enhancing the quality of timber industries.

"This collaboration aims to enhance student's industrial training placement and gain high-level skills with hands-on learning opportunities while being off campus or taking on first-hand challenges provided by their respective industry partners," he said in his keynote address at the signing ceremony.

Kamarudin added the 3u1i training module is in line with the National Education Plan 2015-2025 which provides academic programme which includes 2u2i (2 years university + 2 years industry) and the 3u1i which was introduced by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) in 2016.

"The 3u1i programme is a new work-based learning approach which offers a more rewarding experience for students from increased industry exposure and engagement," he said.

The Timber Technology and Industry course will be among the courses available at the Faculty of Science and Natural Resources which



Prof Dr Kamarudin (3rd left) exchanging the signed MOU agreement with Dr Jalaludin at the signing ceremony yesterday.

will be implementing the first university-industry collaboration module in the university.

Meanwhile, MTIB director-general Dato' Dr Jalaludin Harun described the MTIB-UMS agreement as a 'pivotal step' in the right direction to enhance the quality of human capital among university graduates, and help the industry improve competitiveness and support the growth of Malaysia's timber industry.

"It is the government's main en-

deavour to develop professional, highly-skilled and competent workforce consisting of students from higher education institutions to accelerate the nation's transformation to a knowledge-based economy from one based on production," he said.

To spur optimal and efficient resource management, Dr Jalaludin called for more attention to building quality human resource capital equipped with the right knowledge,

skills, competencies and having positive mindset through education and training.

"The National Timber Industry outlined seven strategic thrusts and one component touches on the development of human resources, an important criterion for the timber industry which needs skilled, proficient workers not only in operations and factory management but also automation, design and technical expertise," he said.