

UMS first to receive support from Commonwealth of Learning

By JASON JACK EBIT

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here has earned the distinction of being the first public university in the country to be supported by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) in policy development on technology-enabled learning.

UMS Vice-Chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr. D Kamarudin D Mudin said UMS has signed an agreement with the COL last Jan 29.

"This has opened the way forward for the process of development and implementation of UMS technology-enabled learning policy.

"COL is an inter-governmental organisation of the Commonwealth which was founded in 1988 with the objective of developing standards for enhancing teaching and learning with technology and we at UMS are privileged to have been granted access to their vast expertise," Kamarudin said in his speech at the UMS Policy Development for Technology-Enabled Workshop last Sunday.

He added that the establishment of UMS Teaching En-



Prof Kamarudin and COL's Dr. Sanjaya together with the participants of the workshop.

abled Learning policy will be in line with the Ministry of Higher Education's DEPAN 2.0, the 10 shifts in the Malaysian Education Blueprint for Higher Education (2015-2025) which highlights the relevance of globalized online education, life-long learning and graduates who are the fu-

ture-proof.

"As we view the world from the perspective of the current Industrial Revolution 4.0 which is sweeping across every aspect of our lives, we need to respond to the increasing needs for knowledge and skills that are pertinent; and knowledge that evolves to meet the needs of UMS students who

must constantly redefine their cognitive skills to meet the challenges of an increasingly competitive future."

Speaking before 50 participants comprising educators, administrators and technical experts who represent the leading edge of UMS, he encouraged them to strive to enhance the quality of teaching and

learning among students.

"I call upon all my fellow colleagues to contribute whole-heartedly to the process of policy development in this workshop," he said.

The two-day workshop was facilitated by education specialist for E-learning Dr. Sanjaya Mishra who is from Canada.

The workshop was jointly organised by UMS' Centre for e-Learning, Centre for Teaching Excellence & Academic Quality and the Department of Information, Technology & Communication.

Also present was Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Prof. Dr. Ismail Ali.