

UMS highlights current issues in 5th Regional Conference

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy held the 5th Regional Conference on Campus Sustainability with the theme of climate action and campus sustainability.

UMS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr. D Kamarudin D Mudin said that the conference is in line with the current issues about integration and sustainability.

He explained that sustainability has often been defined as how biological systems endure, and remain diverse and productive.

"But, in this 21st century, the definition of sustainability goes far beyond these narrow parameters. It is now referred to the need to develop the sustainable models necessary for both the human race and planet Earth to survive.

"Some countries are expecting the private sector to stimulate the effort. But this will not be possible without the help of the government in

getting the right platform in terms of rules, regulation, infrastructure and human capital skills that lead to such development," said Dr. D Kamarudin.

He said this in his speech which text was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Raman Norordin, UMS Dean for Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy during the conference at the Biotechnology Research Institute (BRI), UMS, on Tuesday.

He also disclosed UMS have already incorporated the challenges of sustainability, through the enhancement of its campus sustainability and the establishment of the Eco-Campus initiative.

"With this, it would further strengthen our edge in extending the culture of sustainability to our teaching, research, management and operational practices," he said.

He also stressed that UMS also consistently aims to nurture its students, communities, and stakeholders to become agents of change in reducing the impact of human activity

on the environment.

"At this moment, we are sharing our expertise, research output and innovations with the global arena through many channels such as the United Nation's Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Malaysia, International Sustainability Campus Network (ISCN) and South East ASEAN Sustainability Network (SEASN).

"I am very proud to say, through the collective effort of our university, we are now ranked 4 most sustainable university in the world based on UI Greenmetrics World University Ranking 2016," he said

Besides that, one of the unique features of this conference is the working groups where participants have the opportunity to build the conceptual capacity in pursuing their sustainability ventures at their own institutions.

This year, there are 120 participants from 32 universities, colleges and institutions from Malaysia, Philippines, Japan, Thailand and Indonesia with 58 working pa-

pers and 10 posters presented.

There are three distinguished keynote speakers for this year's conference which are Dr. Hezri A. Adnan, the author of "The Sustainability Shift: Refashioning Malaysia's Future", Prof. Dr. Merlinda Abadicio-Palenica, an ASEAN Chemical Engineer from Adamson University, Philippines and the third is Prof. Dr. Mari Ishihara from National Institute of Technology, Fukushima College, Japan.

The two-day conference which started from 20 until 21 March was a jointly organised with UMS, Adamson University (Philippines) and the National Institute of Technology, Fukushima College (Japan) which features various ideas and case studies that other can learn and emulate.

The conference chairman, Dr. Awangku Hassan Bahar Pengiran Bagul also hopes that the conference would encourage more academicians and researchers from the Asia region to participate in next year's conference.