

UMS picked as conference venue due to social, environ diversity

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UNIVERSITI Malaysia Sabah (UMS) was picked as the venue for the three-day 7th International Conference of Law and Society, Wednesday, due to its location and social and environmental diversity.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin said it is the university's aim to celebrate our "unity in diversity" and to highlight "the best of our

diverse people, cultures and practices".

"It is our hope that the conference will serve as the impetus or the push forward of the process of ratification on the protection and promotion of diversity and integration," he said. He expressed appreciation to the initiative taken by the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and UMS in organising the conference.

"It acts as a platform to exchange views

and experiences among Asian and European nations on the preservation and promotion of diversity in their respective countries."

The three-day conference, themed "Integration and Diversity of Approaches in Law, Humanities and Business Practices", was officiated by Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak Tan Sri Richard Malanjum.

Also present were UMS Chairman of the

Board of Directors Tun Dato' Seri Zaki Tun Azmi and IIUM Rector Professor Dato' Sri Dr Zaleha Kamaruddin. The conference was attended by scholars from Indonesia, Turkey and across the country.

Earlier, Dr Kamarudin said diversity is the most wonderful and precious treasure of mankind that evolved from progress and development.

He said from development, identities are created which differ according to nations, ethnic groups, products and services.

He further said this very same diversity creates the uniqueness that makes the world more varied and beautiful.

"Every nation is defined by its own unique and distinctive set of spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional characteristics which has been established and refined throughout the length of their respective histories.

"It is this distinctiveness that crafts the image of the nation and serves as the foundational and motivational force for social development in terms of law, humanities and business practices," he said.

He went on to say that in this era of globalisation and surge towards the Industrial Revolution 4.0, we would do well to heed that diversity should work in tandem with integration. He said globalisation and integration are integral if a nation's identity and values are to be preserved, safeguarded and promoted.

Meanwhile, Zaleha in her welcoming speech talked on how the International Conference on Law and Society started from a humble idea seven years ago.

She also noted how beautiful UMS is, recalling her surprise to see the beauty of the building during her first visit to the university several years back to attend a vice-chancellors meeting.

"You have a very beautiful campus, with a view facing the mountain and the sea, in fact some of the good things we brought back to IIUM... our Royal Banquet is based on UMS' holding room located near its museum.

"Even IIUM's gallery is also based on UMS, there were a few things that we took back and replicate it at IIUM," she said, saying that UMS is certainly an ideal venue to hold the conference.

On a serious note, she said the conference is convened as a platform for scholars to deliberate on current issues in the effort to address issues and challenges faced together.

"It is hoped that the conference will continue to become an intellectual platform for which addresses significant issues beyond borders for the benefit of the community as a whole," she said.



The organisers and invited guests of honour posing for a photo with scholars attending the conference.