



Shahril (middle), Yaakub (third from right) and Chong (left) posing with the conference participants.

UMS signs MoU to advance Sabah's economy

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KOTA KINABALU: University Malaysia Sabah (UMS), in an effort to study and advance the State's economy, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (Sedia) and Institute for Development Studies (IDS) Sabah during the first International Conference on Economics 2017 (ICE 2017) at UMS, here, Wednesday.

ICE 2017 Chairperson Dr Sarma Mohd Imran Aralas said the signing was a step to progress the collaboration efforts between UMS and the two parties to advance development programmes and research on Sabah's economy.

"Through the signing of this memorandum, UMS, Sedia and IDS will be engaging in collaborative efforts on research, publication and in other academic activities, including holding conferences, seminars and workshops," she said.

Meanwhile, Sedia Chief Executive Datuk Dr Mohd Yaakub Johari said the collaboration is expected to contribute to the State's economy in terms of tracking its economic performance.

"Aside from tracking the economic performance of Sabah, I hope that through this collaboration we can proceed further to the micro-economics level," he said.

According to UMS Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy Dean Professor Madya Dr Raman Noordin, the conference aimed to provide a platform for parties to present their ideas, information, research and concerns on issues related to the global economy.

He said participants from various countries such as Japan, Philippines, Bangladesh, South Korea and Taiwan took part in the two-day event themed *Economic Integration and Global Sustainability*, where 77 paper presentations were held with various topics ranging

from international trade to health economics.

Earlier, Sarma said the conference also deliberated on and discussed issues on economic integration such as Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)'s role in regional free trade areas and the importance of institutional procedures on land use.

She said the conference keynote speakers have also addressed other topics such land economics, the impact of agricultural development on the welfare of economic agents, cross-border cooperation in Asia and structural transformation based on industrialization to meet economic goals.

UMS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor Dr Shahril Bin Yusof, SEDIA Chief Executive Datuk Dr Mohd Yaakub Johari and IDS Associate Director Chong Yun Then represented their respective parties in the signing of the MoU.