

Sabah gets American Corner at UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: Growing relations between the people of Sabah, Malaysia and American citizens is set for a major boost following the official launching of a state-of-the-art 'American Corner' at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday.

Stepping into the new American-style library unveils a sleek Smithsonian design, greeting visitors with a red-carpet welcome which leads to a hi-tech learning centre – an invaluable resource for information, cultural, innovation and professional development opportunities for young Malaysians.

Public Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy, Bradley Hurst, described the opening of the American Corner as a reflection of strong partnership with the university to foster mutual understanding between Malaysians and the people of the United States.

UMS Library is the first academic library in the country to establish an American Corner. It is located on the first floor of the library, which is also an up-to-date information resource centre with high quality books on a wide range of subjects.

Bradley, who represented US Ambassador to Malaysia, Kamala Shirin Lakhadir at the launching of American Corner, said the creation of the centre will serve as a platform for various programmes and partnerships with the US Embassy.



Kamarudin (centre) and Bradley (right) cutting a ribbon to launch the UMS Library American Corner.

“Among the programmes we hope to expand include supporting English language learning in the state through the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETA) programme, which will see another batch of 15 ETAs from the United States to serve in secondary schools next year in January,” he said.

He said teaching assistants under the flagship Fulbright programme are highly qualified and talented individuals who are able to support programmes at the American Corner through their close rapport and connections with schools in Sabah.