

UMS students' reading culture still wanting, says Vice Chancellor

among the students.

"We hope with all these efforts, students will start to realise how important it is to read, and will learn to appreciate books and the knowledge offered therein," he said.

The book fair from April 5 to 9 was one such platform for both students and lecturers to get the kind of academic books they have been sourcing for.

"It is also a way for lecturers and book publishers to sell their books," Kamaruzaman said, adding the book fair involved a total of 11 book publishers and eight higher learning institutes under the Malaysian Academic Council (MAPIM) and government agencies.

On other developments, he also urged lecturers who wish to become professors to take the opportunity to write more academic books in their own fields, or articles for high impact journals in the university.

"Articles in high impact journals

and books that are of quality will help one become a professor faster, meaning the more quality publications they produce, the better their chances of getting a better position in the university and even the society," he added.

Meanwhile, UMS chief librarian, Dg Rukiah Amit said poor reading habits were also very much evident among the people at large in the country.

"Compared to developed countries, our people are still not taking reading and books seriously," she said. "Students only read when they have to; that is when examinations are near, and this can cause intellectual thinking among our people to be so much poorer than those in other countries.

"We will be restricted in creativity and innovation and given this situation how can our country develop better?," Rukiah asked.

Towards the end, she advised people especially students to make reading a habit.

Kamaruzaman (centre) visiting the book fair.

Stephanie Lee

KOTA KINABALU: The reading culture among Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students is still wanting despite the provision of library facilities, said its Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Hj Ampon.

"We have all the good facilities here but the students don't seem to take reading into their daily habits," he said during the UMS book fair closing ceremony on Friday.

Books, he said, are an important weapon for the brain to increase one's knowledge, adding that is why various efforts are being made to cultivate the reading habit