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Travel and broaden your horizons, US envoy tells youths

 BY [STEPHANIE LEE](#)

KOTA KINABALU: Young people should travel out of their home country to experience new cultures and broaden their knowledge, said US ambassador to Malaysia Kamala Shirin Lakhdhir.

Lakhdhir said youth were the future leaders of their countries and in this ever-changing world, they could not afford to just stay in their homes and expect returns.

"Travel if you have the opportunity. Get out of the country and just visit places, experience new cultures, get new knowledge," she said when officiating the American Corner Sabah at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) library here on Wednesday.

She said those who ventured out of the country to learn about other cultures and get new experience would bring back valuable lessons not only for themselves, but society.

Meanwhile, speaking at the soft launch of the American Corner, Lakhdhir said she hopes to see more interaction between Malaysian and American students and professionals in future.

She said Malaysia and the US Government have been working closely in various aspects including the military, business, and social economy.

"The setting up of the American Corner is another step further towards fostering relations between the United States and Malaysia," she said.

Lakhdhir later delivered a talk on US-Malaysia bilateral relations to UMS students.

She shared stories about her experiences before becoming an ambassador and how she ended up as one.

Lakhdhir said she had trouble learning when she was a child and that reading and

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libraries helped her overcome her difficulties.

She also allowed students to ask questions during the one-hour talk.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, in his welcoming speech, thanked the US Embassy for allowing the UMS library to be the first in Sabah to sign the memorandum of understanding that allowed the establishment of the American Corner.

"This helps the UMS community to gain knowledge and information on American society and way of life, culture and values," he said in his speech, delivered by Food Science and Nutrition faculty dean Prof Dr Sharifudin Md Shaarani.

The American Corner offers visitors access to a wide range of multimedia information.

They can browse through a collection of US periodicals from National Geographic to O, The Oprah Magazine, borrow the latest New York Times bestsellers, view DVDs and have hands-on experience with various gadgets.

The new American Corner joins a network of nine others currently in operation in six states – Penang, Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka, Johor and Sarawak – and Kuala Lumpur.

TAGS / KEYWORDS:

US ambassador to Malaysia , Kamala Shirin Lakhdir , travel , horizons , Universiti Malaysia Sabah , America Corner

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