

Generate innovations and breakthroughs to benefit society, university researchers urged

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KOTA KINABALU: University researchers in Sabah have been urged to remain committed in performing research across diverse fields to generate new innovations and breakthroughs for the benefit of society.

Sabah Minister of Education and Innovation Datuk Dr Yusof Yacob believes there are still vast research opportunities that can be explored in Sabah, and further expanded.

"Research initiatives represent the pulse of innovation and dynamism for any university. And it demonstrates that the research of academicians will be instrumental which will determine whether the university will continue to remain relevant or otherwise," he said.

Therefore, Yusof underlined the need for the implementation of education context to take heed of significant factors such as relevance, realistic and high impact, besides being able to be translated as answers to problems faced by communities in the country as well as overseas.

"Academicians need to change their understanding from 'knowledge for knowledge' to 'knowledge for the community and the nation' in order to ensure the roadmap of education is in line with current needs and issues faced by the local community, and society.

"Critical ingredients to university research include multidisciplinary approach to research; establishment of research teams based on underpinning issues or sectors and beneficial products that can be applicable to society," said Yusof at the Awards Presentation Ceremony for UMS Researchers (APUMS) 2018 yesterday.

He further pointed out interaction and stronger collaboration between universities,



Yusof (2nd right) presenting an award to one of the recipients during the Prize Presentation Ceremony for UMS Researchers (APUMS) 2018 on Friday night.

industry and community needs to be strengthened in a consistent manner to allow research processes to be implemented effectively.

Among those who attended the function included UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) UMS Professor Ts Dr Ramzah Dambul.

Earlier in his speech, Yusof said universities can no longer be construed as institutions of knowledge that is exclusive and isolated from society; alternatively, he said, universities have

to become among the vital components in the ecosystem of society, as well as contribute to its environment.

"We want the existence and impact of universities to be felt in society," he said and expressed confidence universities possessed the gathering of intellectual capacity that is capable of developing quality human resources to fulfill the needs of industry and market as well as being an inclusive entity in resolving various issues and current problems. —By Mohd Izham

Hashim