

UMS inks pact with Geological Society of Malaysia

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has entered an agreement with its new strategic partner, Geological Society of Malaysia (GSM) with the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 32 National Geoscience Conference (NGC) 2019.

The signing paves the way forward for UMS in forging closer ties with its new strategic partner (GSM) to initiate joint programmes and be part of the University's transformation in preparation for Industry 4.0.

In the wave of technological advancement in the digital era, it is imperative that geoscience practitioners and geologists expand their knowledge on the latest technological trends underlined Chairman of the Geological Society of Malaysia, Rashid Jaapar during his opening remarks at the opening ceremony held at the Palace Hotel.

"Professionalism in the field of geosciences demands that

practitioners be more critical with their findings which must be 'science-based and evidence-based' and avoid assumptions and unverified predictions," said Rashid on Tuesday.

Furthermore, he maintained such commitments are essential for accurate analysis and input from geoscience practitioners to support the country's efforts in disaster risk reduction outlined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and Resilient City Network.

Underlining the need for expanding knowledge on emerging technologies, Rashid noted adoption of new technology such as Augmented Reality (AR) and Artificial Intelligence could prove useful in the field of geosciences.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yiu Hin extended his deep appreciation for the success of conference which saw over 150 research papers presented

during the two-day programme attended by geologists, geoscience practitioners from throughout the nation as well as international experts.

"The field of geoscience is an increasingly important branch of knowledge and it adds to our understanding of our planet, this conference provides the forum for discussion between experts in the field, including new findings and insights in the field," he said during his officiating speech.

Additionally, he also urged students to take the opportunity during the two-day conference to forge closer links with experts in the field to increase their knowledge and develop new ideas related to geoscience studies. The text of his speech was delivered by Vice Chancellor for Academic and International UMS, Professor Dr Rasid Mail.

Meanwhile, GSM President proposed that the Students Geology Club of UMS is re-branded to UMS -GSM Ge-

ology Club, noting the Society usually provides a yearly allocation of RM2,000 to students of various geology clubs at public universities based on accepted criteria.

"The best performing student will be awarded with RM1,000 and includes a certificate of recognition," said Rashid noting that for now, only Universiti Malaya (UM) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaya (UKM) applied for the programme.

Among those who attended the signing ceremony include UMS Dean of Faculty of Science and Natural Resources, Baba Musta among others.

The next National Geoscience Conference themed 'Urban Geoscience and Resiliency' will be held next year in Bangi, Selangor on August 24-25 with the collaboration of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

The next NGC National Geoscience Conference 33, NGC 2020 will be held on August 24-25 in Bangi.