

Much to be gained from sustainable devt of marine resources — Junz

KOTA KINABALU: Gradual depletion of the marine ecosystem is a serious matter in need of attention and rectification, especially for a state composed of more sea than land.

Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Datuk Junz Wong encouraged experts and practitioners to establish links of different components of marine biodiversity with specific marine ecosystem services, in order to provide a holistic picture of what is at stake and what actions are needed.

Speaking at the International Conference on Marine Science and Aquaculture (ICOMSA 2019) organised by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Junz said scientific opinions backed by compelling evidence and real-world examples would weigh heavily in motivating public perception and policy-making institutions to come on board in marine restoration and sustainable management.



Kamarudin (third left) exchanging documents with Shih Tung Wei, Associate Curator and Section Chief of the National Museum of Marine Science & Technology, Taiwan, after signing the MoU.

“Maritime countries stand to gain immensely by sustainable development of marine resources.

Scientists can play an important role in national development if they can make efforts to

link marine conservation and aquaculture with sustainable development and raising their

voice through conferences and publications.

“I have no doubt that implementation of sustainable development goals can find solutions to many problems such as graduate employment, income generation, seafood shortage and environmental degradation.

“For a country like Malaysia which has more marine area than land, the sustainable development of ocean-based blue economy is the way forward,” he said in a speech which was delivered by Assistant Minister Dr Daud Yusof.

Junz wsaid that in this context, the role of the UMS Borneo Marine Research Institute could be vital by way of research, publication, human capital development and public outreach.

UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin said the University remains committed to its role in facilitating the

sustainability of marine ecosystem, with researchers studying the best ways to reduce environmental effects as a result of aquaculture.

He assured that UMS prioritised sustainable development between aquaculture and marine ecosystem stability, adding that outreach programmes had also been organised to raise awareness among coastal communities on the importance of marine ecosystem care.

Kamarudin was sure that sustainable development could be achieved at a national level if the best implementation methods are identified and brought to the attention of policy makers.

To strengthen its commitment to the effort, UMS also signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with National Museum of Marine Science & Technology, Taiwan, as well as the National Marine Biodiversity Institute (NMBI) of Korea.