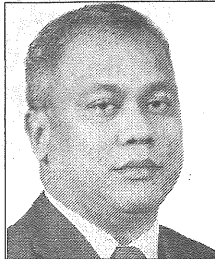


UMS shifts focus to new research modes

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) wants to intensify translational research and transdisciplinary research so that every study done would have great impact and benefit for the local community and industry.



Its Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof Dr Shahril Yusof (pic), said translational and transdisciplinary research are two keys in the university's research strategic plan that was formulated last year to fulfil the interests of stakeholders at the state, national and international levels.

"Translational research is a knowledge-based study that can be translated into community and industry's interests.

For example, the water supply problem in the Interior of Sabah which can be studied for the purpose resolving the problem for the benefit of the community there.

"Transdisciplinary research is a study done not limited to a group of researchers in the same field, but also involves researchers of various other

different fields," he said.

He cited the study on aquaculture in Sabah which can involve experts from the Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI) to study on the species of fish and its feed.

At the same time, a study of social science is also needed to see the impact of aquaculture to a community. Besides that, he said, it can also involve experts from the Business, Economic and Accounting (FPEP) Faculty to study on the market, while those from the engineering programme can look at solving problems in the physical aspects for aquaculture.

"UMS has set 70 per cent of its internal research data to be in the form of translational and transdisciplinary research, apart from providing research grants that not only focus on a certain field, but more to translational and transdisciplinary research," he said.

He said when the university is focused on translational research, it will have slight impact on the education field because the study conducted on resolving a locality and country's problem may make it hard for the researcher to publish a journal.

"It is undeniably that academicians mostly prefer to choose to do research

that enable them to publish a journal at the international-level, which will also contribute to increasing the rank of the university.

But the reality is that study is merely knowledge study and has less impact on the community and industry," he said.

Dr Shahril also stressed the importance of translational and transdisciplinary research which can be successfully realised through a close collaboration between UMS and various parties especially government and private agencies in Sabah to benefit all parties involved.

"UMS can also play a role in assisting in the planning process of the State development plans or policies through its available expertise.

"Apart from expertise and information, UMS is also prepared to share its research assets which previously only used for the purpose of teaching and researching. Beginning last year, the university has began sharing this facility to government and private agencies," he said.

He said UMS prepare to meet with the business chambers or trade organisations to share with them the expertise and facilities available at the university which can be utilised through a collaboration between them.