

UMS committed to collaboration, knowledge sharing

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KOTA KINABALU: University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has reaffirmed its commitment to working together with local organisations and institutions in order to provide greater research opportunities for the betterment of the community.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Chm. Ts. Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin cited the university's principle of encouraging knowledge sharing and dissemination for the greater good.

He also said that research is only beneficial if it is made available to the public and then used to good effect to add to the fund of human knowledge and to improve our lives.

Taufiq's remarks were made during his opening speech at the two-day International Conference on Languages, Linguistics and Society (ICLALIS 2021) which was held online on September 14-15.

To emphasise his point, Taufiq acknowledged that ICLALIS 2021

had only been made possible through the collaborative networking between the UMS Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language Learning, the Institute of Teacher Education Gaya Campus, the Institute of Teacher Education Kent Campus, Summer Institute of Linguistics International, and the Association of Malaysian Researchers and Social Services.

The welcoming speech was delivered by Assoc Prof Dr Lai Yew Meng, Dean of the Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language Learning.

Lai stressed the importance of academics remaining adaptable and responsive to the challenges posed by the current pandemic.

Lai said that it was necessary to be committed to a critical and necessary process of unlearning, learning and relearning if we are even to survive the far-reaching

and long-term effects of Covid-19.

In the first of two keynote speeches, Prof John Read from the University of Auckland discussed the issue of language assessment focusing on the need to ensure that language tests are designed around practical considerations, and with a specific purpose and application in mind.

The second keynote speaker, Prof Hu Guangwei from Hong Kong Polytechnic University talked about cross-disciplinary differences in knowledge construction, their effect on academic communication, and the implications for introducing students to the discourse of their chosen discipline.

Over the two days of the conference, 63 research papers were presented by academics, students, local and international researchers on a broad range of topics related to languages, linguistics and society.