

UMS centre to continue supporting knowledge transfer programmes

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KOTA KINABALU: The University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language Learning (PPiB) will continue to support knowledge transfer programmes in its effort to help sustain the culture and traditions of Sabah's diverse ethnic communities.

UMS PPiB Dean Associate Professor Dr Lai Yew Meng stressed that knowledge transfer and engagement in every research was important to ensure benefits could be collectively shared with local communities.

"We will continue to uphold the aspiration of engagement in the form of knowledge transfer as part of our social responsibility towards our community," he said.

The university's commitment was reiterated by Dr Lai when he officiated the closing ceremony of the virtual Buek Lundayeh Workshop.

The community engagement programme was the first such knowledge transfer activity conducted by UMS PPiB researchers in collaboration with the local community of Kg Long Pasia and Kg Long Mio in Sipitang.

Forty villagers took part in the two-day workshop. One of the activities was a quiz conducted wholly in the Lundayeh language.

According to Buek Lundayeh organising chairperson Dr Kavitha Ganesan, the workshop was held as part of the research activities under the Ministry of Higher Education grant which also involved other UMS research funds.

Dr Kavitha added that under this grant, research pertaining to oral literature is conducted and then presented in workshops through the sharing of



Dr Lai
Yew Meng

perspectives on legends, poetry, dance and traditional music.

"Buek" in Lundayeh means oral literature and the phrase "Buek Lundayeh" pertains to the oral literature of the Lundayeh people.

During the interactive workshop, participants which also comprised the younger generation were tested on their knowledge of Lundayeh culture and tradition on aspects of language, oral literature, dance and music.

A series of lectures by UMS researchers successfully engaged reaction and raised awareness among the participants on their Lundayeh cultural heritage.

Melvin Darius, a teacher who was a workshop participant, felt the programme managed to create a platform for the Lundayeh younger generation to learn more about their ancestral traditions which were becoming progressively eroded by modernisation.

The first series of knowledge transfer and sharing through the Buek Lundayeh Workshop was successfully held with UMS PPiB researchers on Aug 26-27.

The workshop which was focused on knowledge transfer and awareness raising of Lundayeh culture and tradition was made possible with the support of UMS PPiB and the full cooperation of the community in both villages.