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Yap (second right) and others at the online meeting.

UMS' Confucius Institute holds second council meeting

KOTA KINABALU: The second Council Meeting of the Confucius Institute, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (CI@UMS) was conducted via online platform (Cisco Webex) on Dec 7, due to the Movement Control Order (MCO) imposed by the Malaysia government.

The meeting, organised by CI@UMS, was attended by the council members from Changsha University of Science and Technology (CSUST), the partner university of CI@UMS, and CCCC Dredging representatives, who are also the council members of CI.

CCCC Dredging is a giant company based in China, which provides waterway dredging, land reclamation, environmental protection investment, warehousing, and many other businesses.

UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Yap Yun Hin, who is also Chairman of the CI@UMS Council (Malaysia), thanked both the CSUST and CCCC Dredging, who have given their support to CI@UMS throughout the year of 2020.

This is an important factor on why CI@UMS could carry out its various activities that benefit UMS students and the people of Sabah too, he said, adding among the activities are teaching Mandarin to UMS staff and students and the public who is interested in learning Chinese language too.

Professor Dr Chiang Changbo, who is representing the Chairman of CI Council (China), also thanked UMS, who gave moral support and has donated facemasks to CSUST in the early stage of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Later, CSUST through CI@UMS has contributed some pandemic preventive mate-

rials to Hospital UMS. Such two-way help is the clear proof of the true friendship between both Institutions.

In his speech Dr Chiang also hoped that the three parties (UMS, CSUST and CCC Dredging) will implement the model of the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road between Malaysia and China to transform CI@UMS into a high technology institution in this region.

Guan Wei, who is Vice-Chairman of the Council, representing CCCC Dredging has given constructive suggestions to develop CI@UMS further, after the situation of Covid-19 in Sabah has improved.

He said the Company is willing to provide engineering and business-related training to the South-east Asian countries through CI@UMS.

In addition to that, CCC Dredging is willing to provide real site practical training to UMS's engineering students who are excel in their study. All these planning will promote close tie between China and Malaysia.

The just concluded CI Council meeting has placed a clear path for CI@UMS to move a step forward, as CI@UMS is playing an important role in this region as the first Confucius Institute in East Malaysia, which is supported by CSUST and CCC Dredging of China.

With CI@UMS Chinese language development plans and the combination of high engineering technology, will be benefited from the international cooperation and friendship between these three parties - UMS, CSUST and CCC Dredging.

Such close-tie cooperation in return will benefit the students of UMS and the people of Sabah too as a whole.