



Dr Taufiq (centre) with the organising committee.

UMS to step up development of human capital

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is focusing on its efforts to escalate the development of human capital in Malaysia to be on par with developed nations, says its vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin.

He said this commitment is a collective desire by all parties to contribute actively in turning Malaysia into an internationally competitive nation in academia including strengthening cultural knowledge.

"Infrastructures, facilities and a variety of expertise at UMS will not contribute to the aspirational goal to uphold cultural knowledge, without the collective efforts of the UMS community and the support of various parties," he said in a statement here, Saturday.

He said this when officiating a two-day International Conference on Education, Social Sciences and Technology (ICEST 2020) which was held virtually starting on Thursday.

Taufiq stressed that efforts to ensure the

achievement of a strong cultural knowledge are in line with the main objective of ICEST 2020, which is to create a knowledge-and skill-sharing platform pertaining to education, social sciences and technology among the participants of the conference.

He is confident that communities that are committed to knowledge-sharing activities such as conferences will contribute to the performance and increment in productivity for themselves and the nation, particularly Sabah.

Also present at the opening ceremony were the Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohammad Shatar Sabran, Sabah Education Department director Datuk Dr Mistirine Radin, Dean of the Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language Learning (PPIB) UMS associate prof Dr Lai Yew Meng.

ICEST 2020 chairperson associate prof Dr Mohd Sohaimi Esa and Association of

Malaysian Researchers and Social Services (Amrass) president Dr Mohd Nor Jaafar were also present at the event.

The conference was jointly organised by PPIB UMS, Sabah Education Department, Amrass, Sabah Special Education Teachers Council and Institute of Teacher Education, Gaya Campus.

In his keynote speech, Mohammad Shatar stated that virtual learning has now become a global practice, but within the Malaysian context, efforts to expand broadband coverage remain the top priority to ensure all students have Internet access no matter where they are.

Mistirine's keynote speech focused on the adoption of virtual methods for learning and collecting research data, which has made it easier for researchers to reach out to their informants or respondents.

More than 200 participants took part in the conference and over 150 research papers were presented by local and overseas researchers. - Bernama