

UMS ready to implement technology-enabled learning

Published on: Thursday, June 04, 2020



KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is ready to implement Technology Enabled Learning (TEL), said its Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin (pic). Taufiq said the university's Centre for e-Learning plays an important role in delivering the agenda of TEL for the students and academic staff. This, he said, can be done by establishing and nurturing a long-term collaboration with international organisations and providing continuous capacity building for the academic staff.

To this end, UMS has commenced the process of implementing globalised online learning by establishing a collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). Col is an international intergovernmental organisation that facilitates the implementation of technology enabled learning across countries of the Commonwealth.

"TEL has gained traction globally with the current situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic which has driven teaching and learning out of the classroom and onto the online environment," he said during the closing of a webinar on Design and Development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC), recently. He said, UMS has established a collaboration with COL in 2017 in keeping with the mission and vision of the university which focuses on becoming an innovative university of global standing.

"The collaboration with COL led to the development and implementation of the UMS TEL Policy which provides the foundation for the development of TEL-related human capacity and infrastructure across the university."

He added, the active engagement by COL with UMS over the past three years had led to MOOC – a capacity building workshop which was conducted over 12 weeks and attended by 220 academic staff. Taufiq also encouraged lecturers to remain committed to their objective of designing, developing and deploying 30 MOOCs to be launched in October, this year. These MOOCs, he said, will be pertinent to the engagement and development of the intellectual capacities of the students during the current Movement Control Order (MCO).

Among the key resource persons involved in the webinar were COL's education specialist Dr Sanjaya Mishra, Dr Wayne Mackintosh from the OER Foundation of New Zealand, Dr Sheila Jagannathan from the Open Learning Campus of the World Bank Academy, Prof Paul Prinsloo of the University of South Africa (Unisa), Dr Nathaniel Ostashewski from Athabasca University, and Prof Curtis J Bonk from Indiana University.

Taufiq also thanked COL President cum Chief Executive Officer Prof Asha Singh Kanwar for choosing UMS to be the first university to host the global MOOC webinar.