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Two new UMS courses to meet State's needs

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Prof. Dr. Rasid Mail (fifth from right) presents a souvenir to Bahiwata Sayangan during the visit.

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia, Sabah (UMS) will begin offering the Foundation in Agricultural Science and Information Technology Programme, with the first batch of students starting in June.

Both of would be taught on the UMS main campus not only to students from the science stream but it is also open to non-science stream students, students from the B40 group and residents in the interior areas.

"Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International Affairs), Prof. Dr Rasid Mail said this when leading the UMS delegation in a courtesy call on the Director of Education Development, Sabah Foundation, Bahiwata Sayangan Hj. Mulia.

Rasid, said this is in line with the aspirations of the Sabah Government in an effort to increase the number of young professionals and entrepreneurs who can contribute to the agriculture, forestry and information technology sectors.

"The Agro-Science foundation program is a 'feeder' to academic programs based on agriculture, forestry and aquaculture at the Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture (FPL) and Faculty of Science and Natural Resources (FSSA) at UMS.

"The programme directly fulfills the aspiration of the state government to provide energy knowledgeable experts in driving agriculture and continuing the implementation of sustainable forest management policies and industrial development plans to enhance Sabah's economic capabilities," Rasid said.

Regarding about the Information Technology foundation programme, he said, it was a feeder for academic programmes based on Information Technology and Computer Science at the Faculty of Computing and Informatics (FKI), which would directly meet the UMS student enrollment quota.

The Ministry of Higher Education had noted a decrease in the number of students interested in the field.

"In line with the development of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, this program will have a very positive impact on the marketability of graduates and the full Agro-Science foundation program implemented

over a two-year period which includes conventional methods such as lectures, tutorials and practical sessions, blended and problem-based learning processes as well as practical training.

The Information Technology foundation programme is for a year in which the course only includes lectures, tutorials, laboratory practical and computing work," Rasid said.

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