

UMS, Sime Darby sign pact on forest restoration

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Sime Darby Plantation (SDP) Berhad signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to work together on forest restoration and research in Sapong Estate, Tenom, Wednesday.

The letter was signed by UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Associate Professor of Technologies, Dr Ramzah Dambul and Sime Darby Sabah Regional Chief Executive Officer, Mohd Faris Adli Shukery, at Café D' Sireh, UMS, here.

Dr Ramzah said the LoI was a continuity of collaborations between them.

"As a public higher education institution, UMS constantly promotes collaboration with the industry to provide students with the opportunity to further their knowledge before graduation.

"This is also in line with the Education Ministry's emphasis on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) activities."

Dr Ramzah said the partnership was also aimed to create opportunities for UMS students to apply course content outside the classroom besides providing the formal mechanism for cooperation on activities that help promote the environment.

He said such activity will surely provides an effective learning process for forestry students as they will participate in the research and get hands-on experience.

"The forest will become a teaching forest for UMS and this will, of course benefit the forestry students because very soon they can learn about the forest in its natural setting.

"This reforestation activity is also in line with one of the main goals of UMS' ecotourism centre on its greening initiative and environmental sustainability," he said.

Mohd Faris said the collaboration with UMS will nevertheless provide massive benefit to the environment and humankind.

He believes that the partnership will be a great platform for SDP to demonstrate their commitment and support towards the sustainable development goals, especially in protection and restoration of natural ecosystems in a large landscape.

“For SDP, this forest will become an in-house training ground in forest management and conservation for our staff.

“This partnership will also demonstrate our support and contribution to the Malaysian government’s commitment to preserve at least 50 per cent of our nation’s land under forest cover,” he added.

Source: <http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/140369/ums-sime-darby-sign-pact-on-forest-restoration/>