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Awg Tengah: Compile academic findings into books

By Steven Urut

KUCHING: Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office Datuk Awang Tengah Ali Hassan yesterday urged institutions of higher learning to compile their academic findings and put them into publications.

He said there was no point in storing their research, which involved substantial amount of money, in laboratories or libraries of institutions of higher learning.

"Keeping the work on the shelves would only make them available to a limited number of people," he said at the opening of the *Intellectual Publishing Seminar 2002* at a leading hotel here yesterday.

He said, as academic centres,

institutions of higher learning should share their findings for everybody's knowledge.

"They should also establish infrastructures and facilities to encourage intellectuals to share and publish their findings.

He said what Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (unimas) had been doing all these years was one good example as profit was not its agenda unlike certain organisations which emphasised otherwise.

He urged all institutions of higher learning in the country to cooperate and share their academic findings for the good of the country.

"They should join hands and publicise their academic collections," he said.



Awang Tengah flanked by Unimas Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Khairuddin Abd. Hamid (right) and the Education Ministry's Director of Institutions of Higher Learning Prof. Dr. Hassan Said officiates the opening of the seminar. - Photo Johnathan Bullet

Unimas targets to publish 12 books by year-end

KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) targets to publish at least 12 books of various topics on Sarawak by the end of the year.

Unimas Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Kharuddin Abdul Hamid, who disclosed this yesterday, said he was confident the university would be able to achieve its target.

"We have just launched our sixth book today (yesterday) while another three are under review," he told reporters after the opening of the *Intellectual Publishing Seminar 2002* by Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office Datuk Awang Tengah Ali Hassan here.

He said the three books might probably be published in the next one or two months.

"We are not looking at profit in our publication and as such we intend to publish around 500 to 1,000 copies of each of the books," he added.

He said the books were produced to provide critical documentation for various purposes.

Meanwhile, the book entitled "Mapping the People of Sarawak", which was launched by Awang Tengah, is the work of

Unimas' Institute of East Asian Studies.

The university's publication list, which now includes 24 monographs, bibliographies and working papers, provides information on the people of Borneo Kalimantan from a regional perspective.

According to the professor, "Mapping the People of Sarawak" is the first book that captures the pattern of settlement in the state as it existed in 1968 prior to the massive changes that began in the mid-seventies and had continued through into the 21st century.

"The baseline data shows the precise distribution of population in every settlement throughout Sarawak, each identified by ethnicity and local leadership," he added.

The author of the book Professor Michael Leigh, is the inaugural Director of Unimas' Institute of East Asian Studies.

Prior to the appointment, Leigh had been professor and Head of the Department of Government and Public Administration at the University of Sydney, Australia and later Academic Director of Kolej Antarabangsa

Penang.

He has published extensively on the economic, political and social changes in South East Asia.

His books on Sarawak include "The Rising Moon:

Political Change in Sarawak (1974)", "Council Negri Sarawak, Malaysia's Oldest Legislative (1992) and the "Chinese Community of Sarawak: A Study of Commercial Relations" (1964).

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