



VICE-Chancellor UNIMAS Prof. Datuk Khairuddin Ab Hamid (left) receives the vow letters from students' representatives council member during the student's intake ceremony.



FROM left, Rustam Sharipor, Farzona Fayzullaeva and Anvarjon Sharipor, three of the foreign students from Kyrgyzstan.

# UNIMAS new students intake advised to adapt to university life

BY MAX ONG

**KUCHING:** The new students intake of University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) for the February 2011/2012 session were being advised to adjust themselves to the university life as they pursue their higher education in the university.

Speaking at the ceremony Thursday for the February 2011/2012 student's intake in front of 317 local students and 17 foreign students from eight countries, UNIMAS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Khairuddin Abdul Hamid who also introduced himself as Professor K, told the students to change their mindset so that they are able to receive transformation and to adapt to University life.

He reminded the students that life in the University was different than student's life in secondary school whereby there were ele-

ments of spoon-feeding but here in the university there was no short-cut way of doing things. However, he added that the university was ever ready to help students in their studies but students themselves must put serious effort to help themselves achieve their goals, that is to graduate with excellence.

Professor Khairuddin also touched on the status of the university telling them that public universities in the country no longer cater for local students only saying, in the new international era, the students intake were open to foreign students as well and UNIMAS was no exception.

He further explained the positive aspect of open enrollment for student intake saying the idea was to enhanced competition and to expose students of various background and nationalities to learn and understand each other cultures and traditions.

Sarawak, he added, was rich in natural resources and cultural heritages and students especially local should be knowledgeable in this aspect so that they could impart the knowledge to their foreign students which was one of the reasons why interaction between them was crucial in order to create a better understanding among student of various races and nationalities.

UNIMAS also provided one of the best student's facilities, Professor K, informed and reminded the students to take care of the facilities and not to vandalised them so that other students could also make use of them saying they could be improved further when the needs arise.

At the same function, Professor K also told students that there was counseling session available for those who faced problems and the Student Council (MPP) members were ever ready to assist.

Meanwhile, a UNIMAS foreign student from Kyrgyzstan, Farzona Fayzullaeva, 17, said Sarawak was an interesting country compared to her own and the environment was different from that of her country.

She was among the three foreign students from Kyrgyzstan of whom were two twin brothers, Rustam Sharipor and Anvarjon Sharipor both studying Economic and Business.

Another one of the 17 foreign students studying here in UNIMAS is Axelle Noloni, 22, a French exchange student.

She will only be here for one semester until June before going back to France to continue with her Masters degree.

Axelle also said that she loved it here as it gave her the experience to enjoy the exotic life style and the opportunity to explore Sarawak even in the shortest of time.



FRENCH Exchanged Student, Axelle Noloni, speaking to the media regarding her first-time experience here in Kuching, Sarawak.