

# UCTC Unimas busy helping the people in many aspects

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Dr Annuar (fourth right) poses for a photo with (from fifth right) Unimas vice-chancellor Prof Dato Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi, Mohammad Ibrahim, Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, Professor Ahmad Hata Rasit (third left) and others.

SIBU: University Community Transformation Centre (UCTC) Unimas is currently running 15 community programmes costing about RM750,000 for the benefit of the people.

Unimas assistant vice-chancellor, Associate Professor Dr Mohammad Ibrahim Safawi Mohammad Zain, said the eco-tourism project at Long Lamai in Baram was one of these programmes.

"This project includes setting up of village cooperatives, homestay and tourist trails in jungles, besides handicrafts.

"Tourists will soon start coming, and this will help increase the income of the locals. It is now about 70 per cent completed," he told The Borneo Post.

He was met after the launching of the volunteer health promoters course for mini Rural Transformation Centre (RTC) here on Friday.

Nangka assemblyman Dr Annuar Rapae officiated at the function.

Mohammad Ibrahim said another project involved 30 entrepreneurs from Kampung Setunggang Melayu in Lundu.

He noted some were currently dealing with chili sauce, 'keropok' and other foodstuff.

Unimas has four modules to train them to improve their businesses, he said.

"These modules are branding, business finance, quality and halal, and business strategy.

“Hopefully, with a more systematic way of doing business they will be able to diversify their business, increase their profits and sustain their business.”

According to Mohammad Ibrahim, they were also carrying out an English literacy project at Community Rehabilitation Centre (PDK) in Samarahan.

There are 13 participants, aged 10 to 18 years, with learning disabilities there. All of them cannot read.

“Using Unimas’s noble technique by Associate Professor Dr Ong Puay Hon of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, these participants will be able to read and write, thus enhancing their skills in life to earn wages.”

He mentioned that UCTC Unimas had also carried out another project involving supply of clean water to the villagers of Kampung Sadong Jaya.

The village, which is remote and far from Kuching, experienced low water pressure during the dry spell.

“By using Unimas’s technology from the Faculty of Engineering, UCTC Unimas installed a pumping system there.

“Under this system, water from the river will be pumped and filtered to the level that it is drinkable. This project was completed last February.”

He explained that the UCTC was the eighth initiative under the National Blue Ocean Strategy.

**Source: The Borneo Post**