



A TOKEN FROM STF: Wee (left) hands over a souvenir to Hamden.

*Chinwee*

# Govt working with Unimas to come up with tourism syllabus

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**KUCHING:** The Tourism Ministry is working with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) to come up with a syllabus which will be solely based on the local tourism industry.

Assistant Tourism Minister Hamden Ahmad said the syllabus, among its crucial contents, will contain historical facts and products of the state's tourism industry to create capable and knowledgeable tourist guides in the State.

He told reporters yesterday that a meeting with Unimas to discuss about the issue was held last year.

"We held a meeting last year on the need to come up with a syllabus of local tourism contents.

"This is because we feel that there is a dire need for our tourist guides to be well versed with the State's historical facts and products to be explained to tourists," Hamden said after opening Sarawak Tourism Federation's (STF) annual general assembly at Sarawak Tourism Complex

here. A knowledgeable tourist guide would greatly boost the tourism industry, Hamden, who is also Assistant Minister of Youth, added.

He hoped the syllabus could be completed and implemented next year.

Once implemented, the people who want to choose tourist guide as a career will have the opportunity to learn the historical facts about the State and its tourism products, he said.

According to him, the contents of the present syllabus are based on facts and tourism products in Peninsular Malaysia, which the local guides were unfamiliar with.

Such a situation was not contributing towards the growth of the local tourism sector, he pointed out.

Hamden also said that those with Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) and Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM) certificates are encouraged to become tourist guides.