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**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ...** Lai (standing, right) and Siti talking to a donor at the blood donation campaign

## Unimas students donate blood

**SAMARAHAN:** Students of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) here did their bit for society yesterday and in the process, maybe saved a life or two.

Some 200 students had participated in a blood donation campaign at the university that was organised by a group of final-year students of Communication Studies in the university's Faculty of Social Sciences.

The five-hour campaign, organised in collaboration with the Sarawak General Hospital's (SGH) Blood Bank Unit, was to fulfill the requirements of the final year students' course.

Campaign director, Pearl Lai, said the campaign was to initiate more donors to commit their contribution and moral support in order to meet the continuous demand of the blood bank.

"Throughout this campaign, organising

committees also aimed to increase the awareness and disseminate accurate perceptions about blood donations to avoid misconception," she said at the launching of the campaign.

Unimas Deputy Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences Ahmad Nizar, who launched the campaign, said society today had serious misconception about donating blood.

Because of the misconception, he said the blood bank had a serious shortage of supply.

"It is assumed that through blood donation, an individual might gain weight, get infected by the HIV virus, face problems of blood shortage and some are just scared of needles," said Ahmad.

He said these wrong ideas about must be overcome and people should try to understand the true meaning of blood donation and how important it was.