

# Pact signed on oil recovery and sludge treatment

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By Sahrein Maloh

KOTA SAMARAHAN – An agreement was signed between University Malaysia of Sarawak (Unimas) and Enggang Services and Products Sdn Bhd (ESP) yesterday in the areas of oil recovery and sludge treatment.

According to Unimas Vice Chancellor, Professor Abdul Rashid Abdullah at the ceremony held at the campus near here, one of the major problems faced by oil refineries was the safe disposal of oily sludge generated during the processing of crude oil.

“Improper disposal of oily sludge leads to environmental pollution, particularly soil contamination. This poses a serious threat to the groundwater,” said Prof. Rashid.

With regard to the MoU, both Unimas and ESP Sdn Bhd will cooperate in the field of research and development of Bioremediation of hydrocarbon and petrochemical waste.

Rashid said that the three-important assistance to be provided by each party would include training, research and consultation, exchange of staff and staff development and undergraduate Industrial Training.

The agreement also included the joint research and consultancy activities in various academic and



**IT'S OFFICIAL ... Prof. Rashid (second from left) exchanging the agreement with Ossart Jalong (2nd from right) witnessed by Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Murtedze Mohamed (right) and ESP Sdn Bhd Director Gerrit van de Meent.**

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professional fields. A project would be conducted by Unimas specialists from the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology (FRST) with the researchers led by Dr. Awang Ahmad Sallehin Awang Husaini, Associate Professor Dr.

Kasing Apun and Mickey Vincent.

With the implementation of the project, Unimas would be able to produce some Masters students and it is hoped that ESP Sdn Bhd will employ them once they have completed their studies, said

Rashid. At the ceremony, ESP Sdn Bhd were represented by its Managing Director, Ossart Jalong, Director, Gerrit van de Meent, Director (International) Ltd., Peter Wright, Director of Finance, Marilyn Raja and Technical Manager, Peter Raja.