

Adenan: Huge potential for research on Borneo Island

BY KEVIN TAN

KUCHING: The Borneo Island, the third largest island in the world was never divided politically in history and has the potential for challenging academic research.

Special Functions Minister and Minister in the Chief Minister's Office Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Adenan Haji Satem congratulated Prof Madya Datu Haji Sanib Haji Said, director of the East Asian Studies Institute, University Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) for his achievement in writing five books which were launched at a ceremony officiated by the minister.

"A definitive history for Sarawak has yet to be written because the period before the Brookes' has remained a blank. Sarawak, as part of Borneo, shared common links among the other regions such as

Brunei, Sabah and Kalimantan. Borneo, with a population of 20 million with 20 major urban centres, offers a complex geography and a challenging academic research on its population and demography," he said.

Adenan also wished Prof Madya Sanib 'happy retirement' as his contract ends today (31 Dec) and hoped that the launching of his books is not the end but rather a beginning of something more to come especially in other ways to assist in the Malay Cultural Foundation.

Adenan said the state government was always open and supportive of academic and educational activities in Unimas and had provided funds in the form of grants towards the Nusantara Chair of the East Asian Studies Institute, the last grant being RM29,000 given on 23 October, 2013.



SANIB (left) and Adenan (2nd left) handing over copies of the former's books to a representatives of local institution witnessed by Datu Dr Hatta Solhi (2nd right), Chairman of Unimas Management Board yesterday. PHOTO: KEVIN TAN