

Prof Dr Morshidi Sirat new VC of UNIMAS

BY GOH PEI PEI

KOTA SAMARAHAN: Prof Dr Morshidi bin Sirat, 58, from Sarikei, is officially the fifth vice chancellor (VC) of University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) replacing Prof. Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid after the handing over duty ceremony held at the university here yesterday.

Speaking to the media after the handing over duty ceremony, outgoing vice chancellor Dr Khairuddin disclosed that in academia, the sky is the limit.

"Thus, there are always rooms for improvement and more to be achieved; it is a continuous effort in order to do better in education," he explained when asked what is his unfinished task for UNIMAS, during his period of services.

"I would wish to see UNIMAS to have better infrastructure and facilities to accommodate more students and accept more challenges to be competitive, especially in biodiversity and envi-

ronment researches as it is the highly potential field in Sarawak," he added.

Meanwhile, the new vice chancellor Morshidi disclosed as the kick start to approach the management of the university, he will follow the implemented Strategic Plan until 2015. The plan however, will be reviewed in the middle of the year.

Morshidi was the Dean of Humanities Study Centre of Universiti Sains Malaysia (1998 - 2001), appointed professor of Geography (2000), Director of National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN) for the 2005-2011 period.

He received his primary education at Sekolah Rendah Abang Hj Matahir and continued his studies at the Sacred Heart School in Sibul and later Kolej Tun Datu Tuanku Haji Bujang Miri.

He obtained his first degree BA (Hons) in Town and Country Planning (Council for National Academic Awards / Glasgow



DR Khairuddin (2nd left) hands over his duty to his successor Dr Morshidi Sirat (right), witnessed by UNIMAS chairman Datu Dr Hatta Solhi (centre), board members Datu Jabidah Monseri (left), and Datuk J.C. Foong. PHOTO: JOHN CHAN

School of Art Glasgow, Scotland) in 1980 and continued pursuing his Master in MSc (Econs)

Regional Development Planning, University of Swansea, University of Wales in 1982. Later, he

obtained a doctorate (PhD) from the University of Southampton, England in 1989.