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**Vice-chancellor: Unimas focuses on technology that benefits society at large**



It's official: Kadim striking a gong to launch the workshop as Rohaya (right) and Responsibility Project coordinator Dr Zaharya Menevidis look on. — ZULAZHAR

KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) is committed to carrying out research that will benefit society.

Its vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi said this was in line with the need to develop technology which was accessible, affordable and appropriate to local communities, as encouraged by the Government, as well as the responsible research and innovation (RRI) concept practised by the university.

"If the technology we develop is unaffordable or unsuitable for our society, it will be useless. In this context, our research has to benefit society at large.

"So this is our concern at Unimas. When we disburse grants to research teams, we have to see that their projects have an impact on society," he said at the opening of the first Asia Pacific Responsible Business Innovation workshop organised by Unimas here yesterday.

Kadim said one example of a research project with a long-lasting impact on the local community was the university's eBario Innovation Village.

"The eBario project has made a significant impact on the lives of the people in Bario and is now being replicated in a few more selected sites around Malaysia, including for the Orang Asli community," he said.

Meanwhile, organising chairman Dr Rohaya Mohd Nor said the two-day workshop focused on "Responsible Business as an Enabler of Innovation, with participants comprising researchers, scientists, professionals, policymakers and industry representatives.

"We will look at four broad perspectives, which are research development and commercialisation; participation and engagement; business innovation; and science and technology," she said.

Source: **The Star**