

Tajuk : UNIMAS faculty given grant by Japanese government

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KOTA SAMARAHAN: Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations (ISITI-CoERI) of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) has secured a grant from the Government of Japan worth around RM 350, 000.

The grant was earmarked for the construction of a micro-hydro in Long Lamai, Ulu Baram, Sarawak where this micro-hydro project is a research project conducted by ISITI-CoERI.

"This project will be conducted based on a people-centred or participatory approach, where the Penan community of Long Lamai will be involved in the construction, and later in the management and maintenance of the micro-hydro system," said the Vice Chancellor of UNIMAS Prof. Datuk Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid.

Khairuddin said this in his speech at the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony between the Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission at Embassy of Japan in Malaysia and UNIMAS for the Micro Hydro Electrification Project at Long Lamai at University House in UNIMAS yesterday.

The project, said Khairuddin, will be assisted by experts from ISITI-CoERI, a multi-disciplinary research team, alongside with the members of the community, private industries and the 'Ngerabite Lamai' telecentre committee in Long Lamai.

Minister and Deputy Chief

of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Malaysia Koichi Ito who was also present at the ceremony yesterday also said the financial assistance to the development projects was to meet the diverse needs of the people in developing counties through the scheme of grant assistance.

"Known as the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGP), this scheme supports the project proposed by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), hospitals, primary schools, vocational training centre and other non-profit associations," said Koichi.

The GGP, he said, has acquired an excellent reputation for providing flexible and timely support to development projects at the grass-roots level.

Since 1996, under the GGP, Japan has extended the assistance in Sarawak with 12 small-scale but socially and economically important projects amounting to approximately RM 2.4 million worth in total.

"And since 1989, Japan has contributed about RM 14 million to 125 projects in Malaysia," said the Minister.

In the ceremony yesterday, after the grant contract signing, there was also the launching of the Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations (ISITI) at the same place.



KHAIRUDDIN (second left) exchanging the grant contract for the Micro Hydro Electrification Project at Long Lamai Ulu Baram with Koichi Ito witnessed by Prof. Dr. Peter Songan (left) and Associate Prof. Alvin Yeo (secnd right).

PHOTO: RAMIDI SUBARI