



(FROM left) Prof Dr Peter Songan, Prof Dr Toshinobu Fukuya of Yamaguchi University, UNIMAS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid, Assistant Minister of Environment/Technical Education Promotion Datuk Len Talif Salleh, Yamaguchi University Vice-President Prof Dr Hiroshi Matsuda, Tokuyama Corporation advisor Seiichi Shiraga, Dean of UNIMAS Engineering Faculty Prof Dr Wan Hashim Wan Ibrahim, and Assistant Manager of Tokuyama Corporation Kota Ito holding hands to pose for a photograph. PHOTO: JOHN CHAN

UNIMAS, Japanese varsity and firm ink MoU

BY EMY LINDSAY

KUCHING: A massive investment worth RM30 billion has been allocated by the government to generate 200,000 skilled workforce to meet the needs of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) by 2015.

This was disclosed by Assistant Minister of Technical Education, Datu Len Talif Haji Salleh to reporters during the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) between Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and the University of Yamaguchi and Tokuyama Corporation, Japan at UNIMAS at Kota Samarahan near here yesterday.

"This investment includes undertaking from foreign companies to build 14 plants in the SCORE region between Tanjung Manis and Bintulu. The foreign companies are from Japan, Korea, India and China.

"The agreement today is a continuation of understanding that we have agreed upon between companies from Japan, where UNIMAS students can acquire more skills from job opportunities available in SCORE. Upon graduation, they can work with Japanese factories operating in the SCORE region," Len pointed out.

He also said that Tokuyama Corporation which will be operating in Bintulu will train UNIMAS students who major in technical

energy to work in their companies and upon graduation would be employed.

Len added that by 2015, there will be more giant companies wanting to set up plants in SCORE which will certainly provide more employment opportunities for the locals.

"Sarawak has always been the choice for foreign investors due to political and economic stability in our state. In addition, these foreign companies are very inter-

ested in affordable prices and cheap renewable energy sources that we can offer," he said.

UNIMAS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid lauded the effort by both parties to sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU) because it will help UNIMAS to produce more skilled technical workforce to meet demands in SCORE.

"We welcome this cooperation because it provides many benefits

to us such as undertaking joint research, information sharing, exchange of students and academic staff as well as cooperation in various projects," he said.

Also present at the ceremony were Advisor to Takuyama Corporation Professor Seiichi Shiraga, Vice President of Yamaguchi University Professor Hiroshi Matsuda and Director of International Relations of Yamaguchi University Professor Dr Toshinobu Fukuya.