

**University of New Mexico Visit to the Faculty of Social Sciences,
Friday, 14 June 2013**

Introduction

The Head of Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSOS) was approached by Dr Ziarat Hossein, from the Department of Individual, Family and Community Education, University of New Mexico, on a potential visit to the Faculty of Social Sciences by the undergraduate students of the department. Upon discussion with other members in the ANSOS department, it was agreed that the visit would be of mutual interests for both departments in order to initiate a network with a view to explore the possibility for further cooperation in relevant academic activities.

Objective

The purpose for the undergraduate visit to the faculty was to learn about the culture of the various people of Sarawak and to learn about the university learning experience in UNIMAS. The delegates from the Individual, Family and Community Department consisted of 11 undergraduate students and 2 lecturers.

Programme

As requested by the visitors, a date for the visit was set on 14 June 2013, from 9 am to 2.00 pm. Since the programme was held during exam week, the activity was made available to a number of staff and postgraduates. The activities were:

- Meeting with the Dean and the faculty representatives, 9.00 – 10.00 am attended by representative from Social Work Programme, International Studies Programme and ANSOS department. There were exchanges about the structure of the social science teaching curriculum, research activities and student exchange programmes.
- A talk on “Society and Culture in Sarawak” delivered by Kelvin Egay, 10 – 12.00 noon. The speaker enlightened the students about the history and creation of multi-ethnic communities in Sarawak from the colonial era to the present day. There were exchanges of opinions between the students about their own communal experience in the United States, the similarities between the policies adopted against the indigenous community and the revival of cultural consciousness among the younger generation. It was an open and lively discussion on trans-cultural experience.
- Visit to the Centre for Academic and Information Services (CAIS), 1 – 2.00 pm. Puan Zainun, the Deputy Chief Librarian assisted in giving a guided tour to the visitors. The tour was also accompanied by Ms. Khairunnabihah, the President of Postgraduate Student Council, who shared her experience about studying in UNIMAS as an undergraduate and graduate student. Among the highlights of the tour were the Special Collection on Borneo, final students’ artworks and the models of UNIMAS east campus and the west campus.

Conclusion

The programme was concluded at 2.00 pm. There was positive response by the travelling team, and they were pleased that they had learned new information and experience about Sarawak and UNIMAS.

Signed by the Head of Anthropology and Sociology Department