

# 'Good academician-student ties will make Unimas top varsity'

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**KOTA SAMARAHAN:** Establishing good relationship between its academicians and students is the prerequisite for Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) to be the top university in Malaysia, said Housing Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg on Wednesday.

Speaking at the opening of its 16th convocation festival at Dataran Canselori of the campus, he expressed confidence that the public university would overtake other universities and become the top higher learning institution in the country in the foreseeable future.

He pointed out that its achievements since its establishment were the solid proof that the university was capable of attaining such position.

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Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg, Housing Minister

researches."

The researches, he said, would play a vital role in the development of the country and even "change the future of the country".

On the festival, the Tourism Minister believed it was a good platform for its students to showcase their talents in various fields.

"It is also a commendable effort to bring the local community closer to Unimas to make it indeed a university in the community. Through the various programmes, I believe members of the public will be able to gain more knowledge and understanding on Unimas."

Among those present were Unimas board of directors chairman Datu Dr Hatta Solhi and vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid.

The invited guests were entertained to a performance titled 'Citrawarna', performed by Unimas students from eight hostels as well as students from four secondary schools in Kuching and Samarahan.

Besides showcasing the culture and arts of Malaysia, the show also entertained guests and crowd with foreign acts such as Mexican and Brazilian dances.

The festival to run until Oct 14 is in conjunction with the upcoming convocation scheduled for Oct 13 and 14.

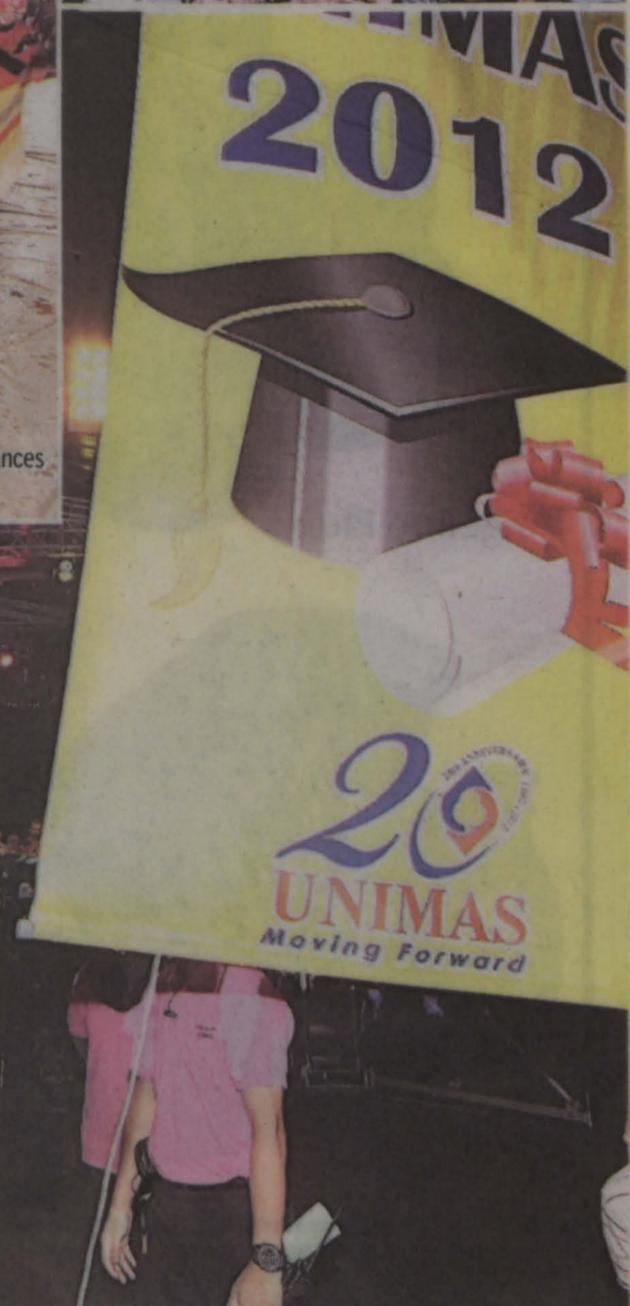
Themed 'Smart Partnership Programmes 2012', the festival consists of 13 programmes, ranging from singing competition, cooking contest, sports activities such as bowling, futsal, rugby and tennis as well as exhibitions.



**STRONG SUPPORT:** Despite the drizzle, almost a thousand people thronged the Dataran Canselori on Wednesday night to witness the opening ceremony.



**ENTERTAINING:** One of the performances by Unimas students.



**TALENTED:** Unimas students showcasing their talent at the opening of the convocation festival.



**FLY IT HIGH:** Abang Johari (left), Khairuddin (second left) and other guests give a nod of approval at a banner after the launching ceremony. — Photos by Rais Sanusi