KOTA SAMARAHAN, April 17 (Bernama) -- Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's (Unimas) Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and Timberland Medical Centre (TMC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on collaboration in the field of medical programme and research.

The MoU was signed by Unimas deputy vice-chancellor (research and innovation) Prof Dr Kopli Bujang and TMC managing director Dr Dennis Yu Hee Yong on behalf of Unimas and TMC respectively.

It was witnessed by State Public Health Assistant Minister Datuk Dr Jerip Susil and Unimas dean of medicine and health sciences Prof Dr Ahmad Hatta Rasit.

Dr Kopli said under the MoU, Unimas and TMC agreed to forge a working relationship that would enable both parties to achieve a common goal of providing an excellent training for the medical students and Unimas consultant clinicians and promote medical academic programmes and research.

He said it would also provide opportunities for Unimas clinicians to do private practice at TMC, thus enhancing their skills and knowledge and broadening opportunities to serve the community.

"The MoU will not only increase the number of clinical specialists with acclaimed qualifications but also help fulfil the growing and diverse needs of the local community in tandem with efforts to steer the medical sector into health tourism, a growing niche in the service industry," he said.

Dr Kopli said the MoU formalised the usage of teaching and learning facilities and the utilisation of clinical experts in the field of surgery, ophthalmology, cardiology, neurology and gastroenterology.

"TMC was selected mainly due to the availability of reputable medical consultants and excellent medical facilities."
"By working with TMC, Unimas hopes to attract more local and foreign clinicians to serve as lecturers and trainers," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Denis Yu said TMC and Unimas would benefit enormously from the collaboration, adding that qualified specialists from Unimas could now practise at TMC legally.

He urged Unimas to appoint TMC specialists as their visiting lecturers, especially in the areas where they face shortages.

"TMC specialists are very experience and well-trained, for example, in the field of orthopaedic surgery, plastic surgery, eye, ENT, cardiology and neurology," he added.

Source: BERNAMA