

IPT centre for knowledge dev't

BY DOREEN LING

KOTA SAMARAHAN: Students should know that institutes of higher learning (IPT) are centres for the development of knowledge and to produce individuals with first-class thinking.

Every IPT should create a conducive environment to encourage students to be able to pursue that knowledge, said Minister of Welfare, Women, and Family Development Datuk Hajah Fatimah Abdullah.

"In relation to this, academics should shape a professional culture among each other so that students can follow this example in building and encouraging a culture of loving knowledge and

research," she said.

This was said during the oath-taking ceremony for their 2013/2014 September Intake Session held at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) here on Thursday.

"IPTs should produce graduates that are balanced in terms of intellect, experience, skills, emotion, spiritual, and have good values as well as to introduce holistic programmes that focus on social cultures, communication, and entrepreneurship.

"This can build students' confidence and enable them to contribute to the development of the nation with a good balance between hard technical skills and soft-social skills," she said.

She said that in this context, students should be aware of and be committed to involving themselves in extra-curricular activities and community-based programmes to foster a sense of leadership and teamwork among themselves.

"At the same time, the global perspective among IPT students is important to encourage mobility and socialisation among students.

"As citizens of the world, we have to be open-minded, multilingual, and have knowledge of social skills that will enable us to be accepted and be accepting of other people irrespective of their race, religion, and background," she said.



FATIMAH receives a souvenir as UNIMAS Vice Chancellor Prof Dato' Dr Mohd Kadim Suaidi (2nd left) and others look on. PHOTO: FENNY SILONG