

# Unimas gets six projects in phase two

By Vijaya Menon

**KOTA SAMARAHAN:** Six new projects will be built in the second construction phase of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP) starting this year.

The university's Student Affairs and Alumni deputy vice chancellor Professor Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid said the projects were a big hall, sports complex, Islamic centre, Faculty of Economics and Business, Faculty of Social Science and Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

"A total of RM6.6 million under the 9MP has been allocated for these projects, which will be completed by 2010," he said at the alumni reunion hi-tea here yesterday.

He said the university started out by operating in a small scale at the temporary East campus in the 1990s with the first batch made up of about 100 or so students.

"But after a few years of hard work we have our first phase of the permanent Unimas campus (West campus), that is capable of accommodating some 20,000 students. When the second phase is completed more students are expected," he added.

He said there were some 6,000 students studying in the university, and hoped that in another two to three years, the university would have a population of more than 10,000 students.

Khairuddin said this was where the ex-students or alumni of the university could play their role in encouraging more

RM6.6 mln allocated under 9MP for projects expected to be completed by 2010: Deputy vice chancellor



**REUNION JOY:** Khairuddin (first row centre) and Fadhil (first row second right) together with members of reunion committee and deans from different faculties at the dialogue session.

undergraduates to choose Unimas for their tertiary education.

He said Unimas had so far produced more than 10,000 graduates, who were ambassadors capable of promoting the university to others around them.

"We hear a lot of things said by people about Unimas. Some are true and some are not.

"This is where Unimas alumni can help by giving the people the correct information so that they get to know the university better."

At the reunion, he also

urged Unimas graduates to start the ball rolling in forming an alumni chapter in the city, and slowly expand the chapters to other parts of Malaysia.

He hoped that the alumni would come forward and commit themselves to form a chapter of their own, and through the chapter, they would be able to contribute to the communities around them in terms of knowledge, services and business opportunities.

Khairuddin said the alumni reunion committee planned to look into future activities for Unimas alumni

all over Malaysia, and would start by conducting roadshows at other parts of Sarawak and Sabah some time next month.

"If everything goes fine, we will try to hold roadshows in Kuala Lumpur, Johor and Kota Bahru," he said.

Before the reunion hi-tea ended, a dialogue session between Khairuddin and Unimas Faculty of Applied Science and Creative Arts dean Professor Dr Mohd Fadhil Abdul Rahman and some 100 alumni members was held, where constructive ideas were shared.