

**on 18 December 2013**

Curtin Sarawak enters into MoU with Unimas



EXCHANGING DOCUMENTS: Mienczakowski (front, right) exchanges the MoU with Kadim while Chan (centre) as well as other guests look on.

MIRI: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was inked between Curtin University, Sarawak and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) yesterday, to develop and promote academic links and research collaboration between the two institutions of higher learning.

The MoU was said to cover research; facilitation and supervision of postgraduate studies; academic staff exchange; teaching activities; participation in seminars and academic meetings; exchange of publications; academic materials and other information; academic quality assurance and consultation; academic programme development; student exchange; joint publications and conferences.

Chair of Curtin Sarawak Council, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Dr George Chan Hong Nam, in his address, said the MoU aligned the long-term goals of both universities with regards to research and academic excellence.

"Unimas strives to enhance and strengthen its research capabilities and has taken various initiatives to complement its educational excellence. It has also entered into various collaborative arrangements with other parties to enhance research, consultancy and academia.

"Curtin Sarawak, on the other hand, has a mission to engage communities and transform lives through leadership, innovation and excellence; and excellence in teaching and research.

"Hence, such wide-ranging collaboration over the next few years will certainly make our partnership extraordinary powerful as well as rewarding to respective universities and Sarawak," he said.

Apart from these, Dr Chan added that the MoU had also embedded message that connects the people through education and research.

"The exchange and sharing of information and knowledge has directly expanded your relation with one another, and only through such a way, it could bring people closer, despite the different cultural background," he said.

Chan later witnessed the signing ceremony by Curtin Sarawak pro vice-chancellor Professor Jim Mienczakowski and deputy pro vice chancellor Professor Ir Yudi Samyudia, who signed the MoU together with Unimas Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Mohammad Kadim Suaidi and dean of its Faculty of Engineering, Professor Dr Wan Hashim Wan Ibrahim.

The ceremony held at Curtin's Recreation and Event Hall was also attended by a member of Unimas board of directors, DatuJabidah Monseri; chairman of Curtin Sarawak Management Board, Datuk Lee Kim Shin, Curtin Sarawak chief operating officer Nicholas Ching as well as management staff, deans and faculty and school members.

Meanwhile, Dr Kadim remarked that the MoU was yet another milestone for Unimas in its ongoing quest to establish cooperative relationships and carry out meaningful projects with other institutions of higher learning.

"When a partnership is established, the benefit does not come to only one party, in this case Unimas and its counterparts, but also to the students, and far and foremost, to Sarawak's people at large.

"Research and collaboration, such as the one that we witness today, serves as a platform to kick start and inculcate innovative habits among our researchers and students, which are aimed to further develop the human capital and needs of our nation.

“Therefore, this collaboration marks an innovative engineering collaboration which will provide engineering solutions with sustainable elements. I also see this as an initiative to supplement and support the establishment of the Sarawak Corridor for Renewable Energy (SCORE) initiative by the Sarawak government,” he said.

Source: The Borneo Post