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'Compile research in books for public, not locked away' archive



NEW TITLES: Adenan (centre) receiving the five books from Sanib (left) during the launching ceremony which was held at Unimas yesterday.

KOTA SAMARAHAN: It is vital for university researchers to compile their studies in a series of books to enable the widespread dissemination of knowledge, insight and ideas.

This is because a good research will be of no use if the information is locked away in a university's archive, said Special Functions Minister Tan Sri Datuk Amar Adenan Satem.

"A book is a repository of the human knowledge and it is there for anyone to take," he said during the launch of five books produced by the East Asia Research Institute (Ipat) of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) yesterday.

On the books produced by Ipat, he said they would further strengthen collaboration between universities in Sarawak and those in Kalimantan, Indonesia on the history and future of Borneo.

Ipat, which was established in 1997, is to encourage understanding of the socio economic changes of the future as well as the promising prospect of the Borneo states in the context of Asia and the global village.

Meanwhile, Adenan noted that there was a void of written history before the arrival of James Brooke in Borneo and during the era of the Majapahit Empire.

“This shows that there is no real definitive history of Sarawak ever written,” said Adenan, who is also the Sarawak Foundation chairman.

He also said Borneo, the third biggest island in the world with an estimated population of 20 million today, was once without any country or political boundaries.

Hence, he said it was important to update and record the development progress in Borneo periodically as society was ever-changing.

Meanwhile, he revealed that the state government was constantly supporting Unimas in its academic activities and research, adding that through the Sarawak Foundation, a total of RM29,000 was granted to Ipat on Oct 23.

The books launched yesterday were ‘Melayu Sarawak: Sejarah Yang Hilang, 2013’ (The Malays of Sarawak: The Lost History, 2013) written by Prof Madya Datu Sanib Said; ‘Perspektif Masyarakat dan Budaya Sarawak’ (Local Perspective and Sarawak Culture) written by Sanib, Jayl Langub and Awang Azman; Issues in Development in Malaysia and Nigeria: Multi-Dimensional Approaches written by Prof Madya Gusni Saat, Sanib Said and Sharifah Sophia Wan Ahmad; Resources and History Heritage: Culture and Nature written by Sanib Said and Awang Azman and the Borneo-Kalimantan Journal.

It is also expected that Ipat-Unimas will launch another two books next year.

Source: The Borneo Post