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Unimas inks historic MoU

Partnership for exchanging ideas and expertise with Japanese, says vice chancellor

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KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) has achieved a milestone with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Yamaguchi University Japan and Tokuyama Corporation.

The MoU aims to bring together the international institutions of higher learning and the industries to collaborate in joint research activities as well as to have linkages that will enable closer ties between the three parties.

With polycrystalline silicon manufacturer Tokuyama Corporation's factory in Bintulu set to be up and running in two years time, the MoU comes at just the right time to enable both universities to train people to be skilled workforce.

It will allow joint research activities to be carried out by all three parties, namely undergraduate and graduate student exchange programmes, academic and administrative staff exchange programmes, collaborative research projects, joint consultancies, an exchange of academic information and publications as well as conducting of conferences, colloquia, lectures and seminars.

"This is truly a historic event for Unimas, as this partnership will enable us to exchange ideas and share our experiences and expertise with our Japanese friends, by hopefully transcending the differences in languages and culture," said Unimas vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid.

"With the establishment of Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) in Sarawak's central region, where many Japanese companies are setting up, the state is preparing itself to provide the infrastructure and human resources needed to become a highly industrialised state," he added.

Tokuyama Corp will also sponsor two



Closer ties: Delegates and representatives of Tokuyama Corporation Japan and Yamaguchi University Japan posing for a group photo together with Khairuddin (third from left) and Promotion of Technical Education Assistant Minister Datuk Len Talif Salleh (fourth from left).

scholarships for graduate students to further their studies at Yamaguchi University as well as provide research grants on power quality studies collectively with the university.

"With this MoU, we hope to be able to give back to state of Sarawak by offering more job opportunities and increase the state's economy as a whole once our factory is up and running," said Tokuyama Corp Advisor Seiichi Shiraga.

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the Look East Policy initiated by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1982, which encourages our nation to follow Japan's lead in technological and industrial advancement.

Tokuyama Corp's RM2.92 billion manufacturing plant at Samalaju Industrial Park, Bintulu will need an estimated 300 highly skilled workers once it commences operations.



Historic: Khairuddin (left) and Shiraga exchanging the documents of the MoU.