KOTA KINABALU: Muhammad Yusuf Sobery learned two important things in life after spending three years pursuing a degree at Universiti Malaysia Sabah -- there is always room for improvement in life, and unity is the key to living in harmony.

He completed his matriculation with 3.0 CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) in 2011, an average result for a university student.

With a determination to achieve better results, he decided to travel from Kedah to Sabah for a fresh start.

Yesterday, he was the recipient of the Royal Education Award, the top award in the UMS 16th Convocation under the Bumiputera Category.

"From an average result, I managed to improve my CGPA to 3.82, and today it was like a dream compared to other developed countries. This is something that I want to improve. Hopefully, more women can achieve higher grades in their business studies and compete with men to hold high positions in any organizations," she said.

Chancellor Award recipient Aliza Sanimin from Kuala Lumpur, said whatever she had learned at UMS Psychology and Education Faculty, was not the same thing as in the real working world.

The sixth of seven is currently working as a consultant in one of the firms in Kuala Lumpur.

"Working for a few months after completing my studies is very challenging. Everything is practical and we are dealing with real life. At first it was tough for me, but I am catching up. My interest is in business, but working in a company located at the heart of Kuala Lumpur is something that I should continue to gain more experience. I am hoping to explore new things and improve my knowledge," said Aliza.

A total of 4,490 graduates will be receiving their scrolls at the three-day 16th convocation ceremony this year.

During the opening ceremony yesterday, UMS chancellor cum Sabah Head of State Tun Juhar Mahiruddin reminded the students, parents and educators that education was very important as a contribution to develop a nation.

He also stressed that a university was a place where knowledge was being explored and collected, channelled to the students and shared with the community.

"Knowledge has no meaning if only shared among intellectuals. It must be shared for the benefit of the nation and its future," he added.

KOTA KINABALU: Muhammad Yusuf Sobery learned two important things in life after spending three years pursuing a degree at Universiti Malaysia Sabah -- there is always room for improvement in life, and unity is the key to living in harmony.

He completed his matriculation with 3.0 CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) in 2011, an average result for a university student.

With a determination to achieve better results, he decided to travel from Kedah to Sabah for a fresh start.

Yesterday, he was the recipient of the Royal Education Award, the top award in the UMS 16th Convocation under the Bumiputera Category.

"From an average result, I managed to improve my CGPA to 3.82, and today it was like a dream compared to other developed countries. This is something that I want to improve. Hopefully, more women can achieve higher grades in their business studies and compete with men to hold high positions in any organizations," she said.

Chancellor Award recipient Aliza Sanimin from Kuala Lumpur, said whatever she had learned at UMS Psychology and Education Faculty, was not the same thing as in the real working world.

The sixth of seven is currently working as a consultant in one of the firms in Kuala Lumpur.

"Working for a few months after completing my studies is very challenging. Everything is practical and we are dealing with real life. At first it was tough for me, but I am catching up. My interest is in business, but working in a company located at the heart of Kuala Lumpur is something that I should continue to gain more experience. I am hoping to explore new things and improve my knowledge," said Aliza.

A total of 4,490 graduates will be receiving their scrolls at the three-day 16th convocation ceremony this year.

During the opening ceremony yesterday, UMS chancellor cum Sabah Head of State Tun Juhar Mahiruddin reminded the students, parents and educators that education was very important as a contribution to develop a nation.

He also stressed that a university was a place where knowledge was being explored and collected, channelled to the students and shared with the community.

"Knowledge has no meaning if only shared among intellectuals. It must be shared for the benefit of the nation and its future," he added.