KOTA KINABALU: Some 72 students representing 18 teams from 10 universities and colleges throughout the country took part in the 5th National Internship Challenge (NIC) programme at Hyatt here Sunday.

The day-long activities covered four checkpoints - two along Gaya Street Fair and another two at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) campus. It was flagged off by Assembly Speaker Datuk Seri Salleh Tun Said Keruak (See another report on Page 7).

The NIC, an annual inter-varsity programme, is aimed at promoting students to become entrepreneurs when they complete their studies at their respective universities.

This year's event was aimed at promoting and encouraging students to become entrepreneurs, especially in the tourism sector, when they complete their studies. It was jointly organised by Jobmarket Malaysia, a company set up to promote Internship programmes for students of Malaysian institutions of higher learning and UMS with the support and collaboration from Sabah Tourism Board.

According to co-organiser Jobmarket Malaysia/Basis Holdings Sdn Bhd Chairman Tan Sri Dr Abu Hassan Omar, the challenge was intended to create value-added local graduates who were both creative and innovative.

“We are planning to have it every semester because students who have attended previous programmes have better team-building, communication and leadership skills,” he said.

Also present were UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Prof. Madya Datuk Dr Kasim Md Mansur, and Jobmarket Malaysia Sdn Bhd Executive Director-General, Datin Paduka Juma’ah Moktar.