

POST APACPH SEMINAR 2008

“Empowering the Rural Community Through Health Promotion”

Post APACPH seminar was one of the biggest events which were organized by School of Medicine Universiti Malaysia Sabah. This 2 days seminar from 11-12 November 2008 was jointly organized by School of Medicine Universiti Malaysia Sabah in collaboration with Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health, the Ministry of Health Malaysia and the Sabah Rural Medical Society (PERDESA). This event has brought speakers from countries such as Hawaii, Japan, Australia and Sri Lanka. The first day of seminar was held at Gallery, Chancellery Building, UMS with the grand opening by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Hj Sanudin Hj Tahir.

This seminar, with the theme 'Empowering the Rural Community Through Health Promotion' provides a centre-stage for updates on the development of various aspects in rural medicine, with emphasis on the challenges faced during planning, implementation and monitoring of the healthcare services providers. Participants from various departments such as public health professionals from Ministry of Health, NGOs and Medical students from year 1 to year 5 had the opportunity to discuss the current public health challenges and mechanisms of health care delivery in the rural community at the APACPH conference. First day of the seminar ended with the interesting forum session which consisted of Prof Dr Osman Ali, Dr Hj Marzukhi Bin Md Isa, Prof Tomiko Hokama and Prof Walter Patrick.

The second day of the seminar was held at Rural Medical Education Centre (RMEC), which is the first rural medical centre at Sabah. RMEC is located at Sikuati, Kudat, 170 km from Kota Kinabalu and it is owned by the School of Medicine, UMS. This was a great opportunity for SPU to expose RMEC to the public especially the Sikuati community.

The event was also attended by People's Development Leader (PKR) Matunggong, Madjin Majinda who was the representative for State Legislative Assembly (ADUN) N14 Matunggong, Saripin Magana; Dean School of Medicine, Prof Dr Osman Ali and representative form the Kudat Department, Dr Lai Zhun Neay.

After the opening ceremony was held in the main hall of RMEC, all of the invited guests were brought for a quick tour around RMEC compound and sights - seeing to “Simpang Mengayau” also known as the tip of Borneo and not forgetting the traditional “Rungus” (the largest and the main ethnic group living in Kudat) long house as the closing ceremony event for Post-APACPH 2008.

*Prepared by,
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