KOTA KINABALU: A Sabah Traditional Musical Instruments Skills Workshop will be held at the Dewan Resital, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) from March 16-18.

The workshop is jointly organised by the Community of Bamboo and the Music Programme of the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage in collaboration with the Education Office of Tuaran.

The participants include trainee teachers at Keng Teachers Training College in Tuaran, independent music enthusiasts and UMS students.

According to the Chairman of the Workshop Kuhim @ Ebin Ugat who is also founder of the Bamboo Community, the workshop will be the first of its kind aimed at elevating the understanding and appreciation of traditional musical instruments of Sabah as well as to introduce it to the public, especially the younger generation.

Kuhim has more than 15 years of experience in skills and development of traditional musical instruments, and is the anchor person in the two-man UMS team studying particularly bamboo-based traditional music and instruments. The other person is Lawrence Fauzi Kating.

Meanwhile, Head of Music Programme at UMS Roslee Hj Wahid hoped that this programme would benefit the students taking music-related courses at UMS.

“We hope that more locals especially the younger generation would become more interested to learn about the techniques of making and playing these traditional musical instruments of Sabah so that Sabah's cultural heritage will continue to be preserved.

A highlight of the three-day programme will be the performances by an ensemble of bamboo musicians at Dewan Resital of UMS at 2pm on March 18.

Currently, about 100 participants have registered for the workshop.