M’sia keeps pledge to have 50pc forest cover

Sri Musa Aman for leading the way in making sure that Sabah is one of the states, if not in the world, to be at the forefront of practicing sustainable development growth in the country,” he said. If you look back in the last few years since he (Musa) became Chief Minister, he was very instrumental in putting out SDGs and conservations, he is very strong on conservation and very proud.

“This is not just about good policy, it is also about good business, because if we conserve our environment, it becomes a tourist attraction.

“People don’t go and visit cities, big skyscrapers. They have those cities and buildings in their own country, but they want to go to places like Danum Valley, tropical forest, mangrove and what not. Because of the consistent conservation efforts made by the state government we are now reaping the benefits by having more tourists coming to Sabah.

“I was told that in China, Sabah is more well-known on its own, then other states of our federation and one of the reasons why they want to be here is to enjoy our greeneries and environment, our sustainable development. Thank you, to the State Government,” he said.

On another note, he also hoped UMS students would visit the World Urban Forum, a global gathering of urbanites, set to be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in February next year.

“When I was the Minister of Housing and Local Government about two and a half years ago, I led a delegation to Colombia, South America, and we bid for the right to host the World Urban Forum, one of the biggest conferences organised by the United Nations. When I was in Colombia there were about 22,000 participants over a period of one week, where we discussed about sustainable developments, how to make your cities better, how to make people live in the cities better, how do you make local governments prepare for disasters, and ensure sustainable self-sufficiency levels not only in food and security, but also utilities and insights.

“It was a very exciting conference and I decided to bid for it, and I like to announce here the Malaysia has won the bid last year and we will host the next World Urban Forum.

“I really hope that UMS students would come and visit and if you like to be a participant do let us know, he said, adding that volunteers are welcomed as well.

“We need thousands of volunteers to help as we estimated more than 30,000 participants coming over.

“This is one of the biggest conferences in the world and I am proud to say Malaysia will be the next host,” he said.

Also present were UMS Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage Dean Prof Dr Ismail Ibrahim who represented UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Damarudin D Mudin, Conference Chairperson Prof Dr Rosazman Hussein, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin Prof Dr Ahmad Puad Mat Som and Imam Institute of Science and Technology, Philippines Associate Prof Dr Karen Fernandez, among others.