Sabah gets American Corner at UMS

KOTA KINABALU: Growing relations between the people of Sabah, Malaysia and American citizens is set for a major boost following the official launching of a state-of-the-art ‘American Corner’ at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday.

Stepping into the new American-style library unveils a sleek Smithsonian design, greeting visitors with a red-carpet welcome which leads to a hi-tech learning centre – an invaluable resource for information, cultural, innovation and professional development opportunities for young Malaysians.

Public Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy, Bradley Hurst, described the opening of the American Corner as a reflection of strong partnership with the university to foster mutual understanding between Malaysians and the people of the United States.

UMS Library is the first academic library in the country to establish an American Corner. It is located on the first floor of the library, which is also an up-to-date information resource centre with high-quality books on a wide range of subjects.

Bradley, who represented US Ambassador to Malaysia, Kamala Shrin Lahadli at the launching of American Corner, said the creation of the centre will serve as a platform for various programmes and partnerships with the US Embassy.

He said teaching assistants under the flagship Fulbright programme are highly qualified and talented individuals who are able to support programmes at the American Corner through their close rapport and connections with schools in Sabah.

Among the programmes we hope to expand include supporting English language learning in the state through the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETA) programme, which will see another batch of 15 ETAs from the United States to serve in secondary schools next year in January," he said.

Excellent Residential College tops sports carnival

KOTA KINABALU: Excellent Residential College emerged as the overall champion of the University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Inter-Residential Colleges Sports Carnival that ended at the varsity’s Sports Complex yesterday.

The two-day carnival was participated by eight residential colleges, including Labuan and Tawau.

The carnival featured a total of 11 sporting disciplines.

Excellent Residential College clinched the overall title after hauling four gold medals, four silver and a bronze.

They won their gold medals through their men’s and women’s volleyball teams, table tennis team event and netball.

Beta Residential College Labuan were second, best overall after clinching their campaign with three gold medals and one bronze.

Tun Mustapha Residential College finished in third overall with three gold medals, but lost out on bronze medal count, as they won none.

UMS Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs and Alumni (TNC IIEP) Professor Dr Ismail Ali presented the prizes to the winners.

Speaking at the function, Ismail stressed on the importance of student involvement in sports.

He also wants to see UMS students to be champs at international level, while encouraging students to be seriously involved in sports while not forgetting their studies.

For a start, he hopes that UMS will emerge as the overall champion at the upcoming Sabah Higher Learning Institution (IPT) Sports Carnival 2017, which the varsity will be hosting on December 16 and 17.

The carnival will be participated by private and public higher learning institutions from throughout the state will vie for the Deputy Minister of Higher Education Datuk Mary Yap Kian Ching Trophy.

It will feature a total of sporting disciplines. This will be the second time that UMS play host to the carnival.

UMS Sports Centre director Mohd Aywoof Fazrul Abdulrahman described this as the best ever event for UMS.

UMS, Huawei sign MoU

KOTA KINABALU: Various initiatives are planned and ongoing for University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in pursuit of transformation and Industrial Revolution (IR) 4.0, said UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin.

He said among them are the development of a digital campus and the redesign of undergraduates’ curriculum to meet the needs of IR 4.0.

"The cooperation between academia and the industry such as Huawei is important in helping UMS to realise the IR 4.0 agenda," he said during the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing between UMS and Huawei in Kuala Lumpur, on Friday.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, International Trade and Industry Minister Dato' Sri Onn Jaafar and Huawei Rotating Executive Officer Guo Ping witnessed the MoU exchange between the two parties (pic).

UMS was represented by Kamarudin, while Huawei Technologies (Malaysia) was represented by its Chief Executive Officer Abraham Liu Kang.

The MoU recognised the cooperation between UMS and Huawei in several fields, including the development of a smart campus.

Kamarudin said he hoped the cooperation would also increase the capacity and ability of UMS to face the IR 4.0 era.