American Corner Sets up after a year in the making

By DK RYNI QAREENA

KOTA KINABALU: The American Corner at Universiti Malaysia Sabah library came to fruition after a year an understanding was reached.

The UMS facility has joined nine other American Corners operating in eight states namely Perak, Penang (Seberang Jaya and George Town), Kedah, Kelantan, Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Johor and Sarawak.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr. D Kamarudin D Mudin said it will house materials and collections such as high quality pictorial books, encyclopaedia, current American magazines and journals as well as DVDs on American culture.

He added that the corner, also known as AC, will also organise various activities which will benefit both students and the local community.

"Since the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UMS and the US Embassy on Sept 25 last year, various activities have been organised by the corner. Some of them were the Scuba Diving Programme, Meet and Greet with Band Break of Reality, Depression and Anxiety Talk, and Drone Workshop," said Kamarudin during the launching ceremony yesterday.

UMS Library American Corner also provides electronic facilities including iPad, iMac, 3D Printers and more.

"Recently, the Breast Cancer Awareness was held in conjunction with Breast Cancer Campaign where various activities were organised such as exhibition and examination for Cervical and Breast Cancer," noted Kamarudin.

He added that the UMS Embassy will work together with UMS to offer engaging and informative programmes at the corner.

"Among the examples are programmes led by talented Sabahan to offer hands-on experience with the latest technology and to share information about environmental conservation, entrepreneurship, higher education, civil society and other important topics," he noted.

Kamarudin further reminded the people to take the opportunity to gain more information and knowledge about the United States of America especially in its society, culture and values.

"I would therefore encourage everyone - students, lecturers and staffs to join or attend events organised by the American Corner as I am sure any programme organized by this corner will be valuable resources which can help enrich our personal learning and extra resources for teaching, learning, research and publication purposes," he said.

Also present during yesterday's launching ceremony were Counsellor of Public Affairs, US Embassy in Malaysia, Bradley Hurst, representing United States Ambassador to Malaysia, Ramala Shirin Lakhdir and UMS Chief Librarian Dayang Rukiah Awang Amin.

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Bradley (right) together with Kamarudin (middle) checking out the new devices after the launch of the American Corner at UMS Library.