UMS, MTIB sign MoU on students’ industrial placement

BY Chok Sim Yee

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) yesterday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a partnership to incorporate a year of industrial placement under the Technology and Wood Industry programme.

UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin said the MoU entailed incorporating the 3+1 learning mode for the programme, which comprised three years in university and a year of industrial placement where the students’ performance would be monitored.

He said the Technology and Wood Industry programme under the Faculty of Science and Natural Resources is the first 3+1 course in UMS.

He said the Ministry of Higher Education had introduced and implemented the 2+2 and 3+1 academic programme in 2016 to support flexible education. He said the industrial placement aimed to enhance the learning process of students that was geared towards experience and services gained from outside campus and industry players.

Kamarudin said UMS and MTIB had signed an MoU on April 8, 2010 to collaborate in the field of research, practical training for students, publication and organizing seminars.

He said the MoU signed yesterday would further expand the cooperation through the involvement of more staff.

“It is hoped that both parties will enhance the quality of timber and increase the country’s economy. “I also hope that implementation of the 3+1 programme will enhance employability of UMS graduates in Malaysia.”

Meanwhile, MTIB director general Dato’ Dr Jalaluddin Harun said the 3+1 programme was an opportunity for the university to break away from highly-theoretical mindset.

He said the MTIB-UMS collaboration aimed to enhance the quality of human capital among students and university graduates.

“We hope the development of human capital through programmes that will be planned in the future will increase competitiveness and drive the timber industry towards a more progressive and sustainable development.”