UMS: Skills make graduates marketable

KOTA KINABALU: The development of soft skills is one of the areas emphasized by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) whose vision is to produce well-balanced and marketable graduates. Depute Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Prof Dr Raafi Maal said it has been the institution’s mission to foster not only academically strong students but also those who are able to communicate, adapt and are alert to current issues.

“Learning, here, is not simply about passing; many graduates who scored excellent CGPA could not land jobs and fail during interviews because they do not possess soft skills required by the industries.”

On the Foundation level, he said, it is among the main areas that will be highlighted to prepare students for their Bachelor’s Degree later.

He was speaking during the closing ceremony of “Mahjai Sasi Meusa” for 2018/2019 students of Science Foundation programme at UMS Preparatory Centre of Science and Technology (PPST) here yesterday.

According to him, it is crucial to keep abreast of latest developments be it on economics, socio-economics or even political culture when being in the university. Not only that, he reminded students to learn to adapt to changes and plan ahead of their future direction rather than being enrolled in Foundation level simply for the sake of their parents.

“It’s not early for you to start identifying where you want to go, ask yourself – what is your strength, weakness and what are the opportunities available in the open market.

“In UMS, you need to be ready to face a more opened learning system that awaits your intellectual maturity.”

A total of 312 students will take up the Science Foundation programme this year. Also present was PPST director Assoc Prof Dr Samzali Effendi Arshad.

UMS zeroes in on critical thinking of young

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A ‘7 out of 12 students’ who enrolled in the programme – a one-year course before entering the Bachelor’s Degree.

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will continue to provide competitive academician, develop modern infrastructure and set up effective policies in the effort to stimulate critical thinking of the younger generation.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dato Sri D. Kamaruddin Md Said said in the modern era, acquiring higher education has become a must to keep up with the changing times.

Hence, he said, UMS is dedicated to producing high-quality graduates for both local and global markets.

“UMS will continue to provide guidance and learning opportunities in an environment that focuses on talent and innovation,” he said in his speech delivered by Depute Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Prof Dr Raafi Maal, at the closing ceremony of 2018/2019 “Mahjai Sasi Meusa” for students of Science Foundation programme here yesterday.

A total of 512 students enrolled in the programme – a one-year course before entering the Bachelor’s Degree.

“Of utmost importance is to ensure that students are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge that enable them to think critically, solve problems and make decisions independently,” he added.

He said UMS was dedicated to ensuring that students were able to think and reason clearly, and that they were able to analyze, evaluate and synthesize information to make informed decisions.

“This is why we have introduced critical thinking courses into our curriculum,” he said.

By MOHD ZAHM B. HASHIM

KOTA KINABALU: About 40 participants attended a workshop to enhance interdisciplinary knowledge and research collaboration into resolving socio-economic issues in Sabah, organised by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and the University of Westminster, London.

UMS Vice-chancellor, Prof Dato Sri D. Kamaruddin Md Said said the programme gathered academicians from 25 institutions in the United Kingdom and Malaysia in the workshop called Social Innovation Entrepreneurial Learning (SITEEL).

"I'm confident participants will have a transformative experience during the workshop to address the five key thematic areas identified by the workshop. These areas are: social innovation, entrepreneurship development, economic and social development, environmental and sustainability issues, and international cooperation. The workshop will provide a platform for participants to exchange ideas, develop new collaborations, and foster relationships that will contribute to tackling socio-economic issues in Sabah and beyond."

The workshop seeks to foster a multidisciplinary approach to socio-economic issues and encourage the development of innovative solutions. The participants included government officials, researchers, academics, and practitioners who discussed and explored ways to address socio-economic challenges in Sabah. The workshop aimed to foster partnerships between the institutions and explore opportunities for collaboration to address socio-economic issues in Sabah. The workshop was facilitated by the UMS Department of Social Sciences and the faculty of Science and Natural Resources, Prof. Dr Baba Musta.

"The workshop will create five trans-disciplinary entrepreneurial learning sets around key local issues with researchers from both countries working together to identify potential research projects and collaborations to promote further development in the said areas.

According to workshop head, Dr Ainurul Idris, the social innovation projects throughout the five-day workshop will be focusing on five focus areas which include agro-tourism project in Kundasang, livestock project in Kenyir, mulberry project in Tuaran, Stingless bee project in Kinabalu and the Banana project in Kota Marudu.

During the launching of the workshop, Prof Baba Musta also presented application certificates to 19 rural smallholders from Beluran who completed the entrepreneurial learning workshop.

Prof Kamaruddin said the workshop aims to identify synergies between existing research and promote future trans and multidisciplinary research projects and collaborations. He said this includes focus on creating awareness on the importance of improving the resilience of social development services provision and linking activities during the workshop to practical challenges that researchers address throughout their work.

The workshop also seeks to create a working group with defined learning criteria from the workshop to foster the right skills needed for innovation relevant to the theme of the group and building links for future collaboration."