Extensive learning opportunities in Sabah by US Embassy

KOTA KINABALU: Around 170 students from seven secondary schools and 30 students from University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) attended the America Day Field Trip programme at UMS library yesterday.

US Ambassador to Malaysia Kamala Shirin Lakhdhar said students were exposed to activities such as skateboarding, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) workshop, career talk, and Education USA talk on how to study abroad in the US.

"Besides that, we also have four of our fourteen young American English teachers who are teaching in secondary schools in Sabah, who brought along their students for the activities here.

"We also have an American corner here at the UMS library and we are also doing STEM education together for secondary school students such as on robotics and coding which was conducted by Kinabalu Coders," she said when met by reporters at UMS yesterday.

Also present was UMS Librarian Dg Rukiah Ag Amil. Kamala hoped that the one-day programme would help students in Sabah to learn and inspired to further their studies.

"We in the embassy would like to encourage and inspire young people especially secondary school students to think about what they want to do in the future," she said, adding that the embassy is also working on an exchange programme with Malaysian students.

The embassy also has the Youth Exchange Study (YES) and Young South East Asia Leadership Initiative (YSEALI) to which Sabah students are encouraged to apply. It also has an exchange programme for high school students which involve living in the US for six months.

"To date, over 7,000 Malaysians who have participated in YSEALI programme both in the US and the region.

HOW IT WORKS ... Kamala (right) and Dg Rukiah (2nd right) are briefed by the Kinabalu Coders representative on the function of the Robots.

"Our focus at the embassy has been on English language teaching and STEM education. We have been working with universities to bring speakers to open up for students at the university and secondary levels.

"We also have an English teacher who is training Sabahan teachers of English in new techniques and new ways of teaching English to inspire their students," she added.

Commenting on the relationship between the United States and Sabah, she disclosed that they are currently working closely together on environmental, wildlife and health issue as well as matters of public health research, human-wildlife interaction.

UMS bekerjasama dengan UoW adakan bengkel SITEL


Naib Cawangan UMS Profesor Datuk Dr Damarudin M Dzulkifli berkata, seminar berkenaan akan melibatkan penyelidik dalam dan luar negara bagi menyampaikan keahlian penyelidikan berdasarkan cabaran pembangunan sosial dan perkhidmatan di negeri ini.

Katanya, ia juga sebagai batu loncatan antara pelbagai pihak untuk meneruskan kerjasama yang sudah terjalin tanpa ruang sempadan.

"Peserta bengkel juga akan melibatkan 20 penyelidik Malaysia dan 20 penyelidik dari United Kingdom, dari 25 institusi berbeza.

"Pada masa sama, lima kumpulan keusahaannya akan mempamerkan set projek inovasi sosial yang berkorespon demi manfaat rakyat Sabah, hasil cetuskan kerjasama antara kesejukan penyelidik dalam dan luar dan peserta," katanya pada Majlis Perasmian Bengkel berkenaan, di sini pada latarn.

Teks ucapan beliau disampaikan oleh Dekan Pakaih Sams dan Sumber Alam Profesor Dr Baba Musta.

Kamarudin berkata, projek inovasi sosial berkenaan akan tertumpu pada lima lokasi berbeza iaitu projek agro-pelamongan di Kudat, Projek tanam di Keningau, projek mulberry di Tuaran, projek kulit dan kerja inovasi bagi perikanan inovasi jangka masa panjang.

"UMS semestinya tetap menggunakannya sebagai peluang yang akan membawa kita lebih dekat untuk menyelisikai beberapa isu sosio ekonomi yang semakin mendesak di seluruh dunia.

"Justeru, kami percaya bahawa kerjasama penyelidik UMS dan peserta untuk berkongsi kepakaran akan memberi peluang kepada kita bekerjasama di setiap peringkat dengan jayanya," katanya.

Bengkel yang berlangsung selama lima hari itu juga bertujuan mewujudkan kesedaran mengenai pentingnya meningkatkan daya tahan sosial dan mengenal pasti sumber atau sumber hidup sedia ada.

Selain itu, aktiviti sepanjang bengkel juga memberi perkongsian tentang projek penyelidikan multidosipin serta kemahiran yang berulang untuk koperasi setiap inovasi berkenaan.

Turut hadir ialah Ketua Projek SITEL Dr Ainarul Rosli. - Oleh SADDAM EDHI