UMS to become durian information centre

By Safrah Mat Salleh

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will become a stop center for the community to know more about durians and their diversity. UMS Strategic Management Centre and Corporate Communication deputy director Associate Professor Dr Abd Hamid Ahmad said UMS was signing a letter with Yun Fook Resources to collaborate in collecting durian varieties of the best quality and other durian species found in Borneo.

The cooperation is one of the efforts to conserve genetic durian resources and awareness on durian conservation could be nurtured by identifying various forms of the fruit and experiencing the delights of durian varieties, including wild durian fruits, he said.

"Borneo Island is very special because it has the highest number of durian species of more than 18 species when compared to seven and 11 species in Sumatra and Peninsular Malaysia respectively. "Durian 'bangking', which grows wild in large forests has red skin, yellowish flesh and black seeds, can only be found in Borneo. Its flesh is sweet, but (the fruit) is hard to find," he said.

The signing of the letter was made between UMS and the Sabah Veterinary Services Department (DVS) was also signed.

Kamarudin said with the MoU, various activities such as sharing of livestock, usage of laboratory facilities and sharing of expertise in teaching and learning as well as research and development would be carried out.

"The Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture also offers external company programmes to DVS staff with the first enrollment of 14 people already in the second year of their study," he said.

He also congratulated and thanked Enrich Marine Sdn Bhd for giving out its first phase of research fund of RM100,000 to UMS Borneo Marine Research Institute, which was presented through a mock cheque, yesterday.

Kamarudin said the signed research contract between the aquaculture industry player and UMS was for a research on lobsters, which would develop a sustainable lobster technology by adopting the facilities and expertise available at the institute.

FPEP UMS menerima Lol bersama Jose Rizal University, Filipina

PETALING JAYA: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Jose Rizal University, Filipina, will work together towards the production of the best durian in the world, said UMS President Prof. Shafie Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Musa Aman.

FPEP (Universiti Malaysia Sabah) and Jose Rizal University (FPEP) would jointly hold a seminar to discuss the exchange of ideas and information on issues related to the production of durian in Malaysia and the Philippines. The signing ceremony took place at UMS during the Durian Conference 2018.

"By collaborating with durian producers from the Philippines, we hope to produce a high-quality durian that will be in demand in the market," said Prof. Musa.

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FPEP UMS, Filipina, are a part of the Organisation for the Development of Central and Southeast Asia (ODCSEA), which promotes the development of education, research and technology in the region.

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