KOTA KINABALU: The collaboration between universities and industries will benefit both parties, and is crucial for developing the nation.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau said that it is important to work together to realize the future ahead and create a better resilient nation.

"The benefits of university-industry linkages are wide-reaching as they can help coordinate research and development (R&D) agendas, stimulate various research and development opportunities, and exploit synergies of scientific and technological capabilities."

"Besides that, it can also expand the relevance of research carried out in public institutions, foster the commercialisation of public research and development (R&D) outcomes, and increase the mobility of labour between public and private sectors," he said.

He said this in his speech during the officiating of the University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Academia-Industry-Community Awards (AICA 2018) at Sutera Harbour Resort here.

The event was hosted by Centre for Industry and Community Network (CICN) UMS to commemorate UMS’s linkages and activities with local Industry and Community partners over the past two years.

He explained that industries have progressively adopted open innovations strategies to better access and integrate external sources of knowledge, leading to a stronger interest in collaboration with universities.

Madius who is also the Minister of Trade and Industries of Sabah stated that since the 90s era, universities have moved beyond the traditional teaching and research.

"The role of the university is not limited to teaching and research but also includes a third mission which is to better address the needs of industry and contributing directly to economic growth and development."

"Strongly believe that the collaboration between industries and universities will result in win-win situations for both parties."

"Industries will benefit from the expertise, knowledge transfer and research results from the universities which could give them a competitive advantage, while universities will benefit by enhancing the academics and students’ practical expertise through exposure to industry," he added.

From then on, academics can draw on for their lectures as well as getting a deeper insight into corporate and business. Therefore it would help the academics to develop case studies and real-examples which are of greater relevance to their students.

"Thus, universities can produce highly qualified and relevant graduates with the latest knowledge and core management skills, plus the balance between real business challenges, latest academic research and new methodologies which can tailor them for the working world," he added.

Besides that, the collaboration between university and community plays a vital role in assisting the communities to obtain effective knowledge and enhance their socio-economic life.

"Sabah has a significant rural population and I believe the collaboration and effort by all parties in aiding the local community will enormously influence the betterment of our state and the country," he said.

There were three sets of awards given out during the dinner: The UMS High Impact University-Industry Engagement Award, The UMS High Impact University-Community Engagement Award and the UMS Special Award.

The winners and award recipients of AICA 2018 will be shortlisted as nominees for Majlis Aungserah Jaringan Akademia-Industri (AINA) 2019 organized by Ministry of Education (MOE).