Strong STEM skills needed to build competitive nation

By MOHD IZHAM HAMID
KOTA KINABALU: Building the nation’s competitiveness means investing in talent equipped with strong foundations in science, technology, mathematics, and engineering to produce a reliable, skilled, and competent future workforce.

"In order to gain a competitive edge in this era of technology, the inclusion of multidisciplinary projects is calling for emphasis on innovation in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)." said Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Prof Datuk Dr Kamarudin D. Mudin.

In his opening address at the launching of the 8th Asian Conference on Engineering Education (ACEE 2019), Kamarudin noted that special emphasis needs to focus on practical innovative engineering and reform in teaching models, particularly in the implementation of STEM education paradigm. The text of his speech was read by the UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International Relations) Prof. Dr Rasid Mall.

He noted ACEE 2019 is aimed at strengthening international cooperation and exchanges in the field of engineering education and promote the development of engineering education.

"We hope that participants will benefit from this conference and build their capacity to contribute and enhance their knowledge in the field of STEM," said Dr. Kamarudin.

He noted the conference will saw participation of 60 international participants from Japan, Korea, China, and Malaysia. UMS joining the program held from June 24-26, provided the opportunity for mutual exchange and engineering education among educators, students, and industry partners in Asia.

The programme will also feature two distinguished speakers who will share their research knowledge in various computer science, engineering and technology research fields. Among the keynote speakers includes Prof. Satoru Tachibana from Tokyo University, Japan. The 8th ACEE 2019 with this year’s theme "Innovation in Education for Global Business" is a joint effort between UMS Engineering Faculty and the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy in collaboration with the Korea Maritime and Ocean University.

Rasid (2nd from left) presenting a memento to Hanabusa at the launching of the conference.

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