KOTA KINABALU: Yayasan Felda has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) together with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) through the Yayasan Felda Intensive English Course.

The collaboration will allow the children of Felda settlers in Felda Sahabat, especially the SPM graduates, to improve their English skills.

Through the programme, students will be exposed and taught English communication skills, reading and writing by UMS while preparing them for the Malaysian University English Test (MUET), which is mandatory for them to enter a university.

During the signing, Yayasan Felda Board of trustee member Prof Dato' Dr. Khairuddin Ab. Hamid said he is grateful to UMS for entering a collaborative effort with Yayasan Felda for the benefit of the people. The programme will involve lecturers from UMS Faculty of Psychology and Education and Bachelor of Education in TESL (Teaching of English as a Second Language) final year students in the Yayasan Felda Intensive English Course programme.

"I am amazed at UMS for their effort in sending their experienced English lecturers and students to help our Felda settlers’ children," he said in his speech.

The programme will be initiated next year which involves three secondary and four primary schools at Wilyah Sahabat. Every session of the programme will be held for three months. "Besides that, the programme would also allow them (UMS) to catch a glimpse of the life of people in Felda, and the way they live," he added.

"On behalf of the people of Felda, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to UMS, for collaborating with us in this programme and I hope that we can expand our collaboration to other activities such as education seminars and many more," he stated.

Also present during the ceremony was Yayasan Felda General Manager Mohd. Banuri Aris and also Prof. Dr. Ismaill Ibrahim from UMS Faculty of Psychology and Education.