UMS takes steps to increase awareness level of high impact journals

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KOTA KINABALU: There is still room for improvement on the level of awareness of high impact journals amongst the staff in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Associate Professor Dr Kasim Mansur, said that lecturers, researchers and publishers in the university are still confused and unable to distinguish the difference between high impact journals, international journals, professional journals and so on.

"The issue of high impact journals became a hot topic since the Ministry of Higher Learning created a rating system by identifying the KPI (key performance index) of publications in high impact journals as one of them. Now, getting published in high impact journals has become a trend among lecturers in Malaysia while publishers and librarians are the backbone in supporting their efforts," he said.

He said this yesterday at the opening ceremony of the High Impact Journal workshop at the university which was jointly organised by the UMS Publication Unit & Library and Thomson Reuters Singapore. He urged UMS staff to have their work published in high impact journals as it is an indicator of the quality of the university and its lecturers.

"Clearly, the number of publications in high impact journals is effective in measuring the rating of a university especially when it is trying to go international. Therefore, high impact journals are the basic indication of determining not only the excellence of the university but also a component to measure the excellence of a lecturer," he said.

"In order for UMS to attain the status of Research University by 2013/15, efforts will be made to increase the awareness of high impact journals to lecturers and to offer financial incentives to those who successfully publish articles in them. Other than that, the university also offers the latest information to our academicians about Malaysian journals that are indexed internationally as well as the criteria to be indexed," he said.