Soft skills to give UMS students edge

Jason Santos
KOTA KINABALU: University students will be more adept in entering working life upon graduation following the introduction of the My Soft Skill (MY3S) programme.

According to Universiti Malaysia Sabah Vice Chancellor, Professor Datuk Seri Dr Kamaruzaman Hj Ampom since its inception in 2010, MY3S had been used primarily to grade students on their soft skill abilities but also at the same time develop their character.

"Initially, we had no indicators to see whether students are good in their soft skills. But after MY3S they have become extremely good in their soft skills when they enter into the working world," said Kamaruzaman after handing over the 1Malaysia book voucher (BBIM) to students, Thursday.

He said MY3S was introduced following complaints from people that most of their graduates are not able to communicate with employers.

"They could not respond in English, they could not conduct critical thinking," he said.

He also said the numbers of students taking up the programme also increased yearly and exceeded the university's target of 86 per cent from only 17 per cent among first year students at the start of the programme.

Kamaruzaman said MY3S will capture the weaknesses of students and then the university will conduct programmes in these areas.

MY3S is focused on communication skills, critical thinking and problem solving skills, continuous learning and objective management, teamwork, moral and professionalism and leadership skills.

Meanwhile, some 15,969 UMS students will benefit from the 1Malaysia RM200 book vouchers. The vouchers will be given to active students from January to March 2012 in all IPTA and IPIS.

BB1M is valid in all bookstores selling scholastic books statewide and rolled out to help students in their studies, especially in the acquisition of reference and textbooks.

UMS students can obtain their vouchers from the UMS Students Affairs Department and later in the Treasury Department.

In conjunction with the BB1M, UMS is also planning to organise a book fair in March.