KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) School of Psychology has been urged to engage in more community development.

With the expertise in understanding human behaviour, it is important to focus on practical and not merely theoretical aspect of behaviour.

"With this involvement I believe the school can help to improve the psychological well-being of the people," UMS vice-chancellor Prof Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said when opening the South East Asia Psychology (SEAP) Conference 2012 in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday.

He also disclosed that based on a current research by the School of Psychology, 49.8 per cent of respondents at secondary schools in Sabah suffered from mild mental problem.

"For a start I urge the school to focus on certain rural areas in Sabah and take it as a pioneer model to improve the psychological well-being of the local people. "This should be the main contribution of the school to the indigenous community in Sabah," Dr Harun added.

The dean of the school As-