KOTA KINABALU: A university is not only concerned with imparting knowledge. It also plays a key role in shaping the world.

In this context, those who possess knowledge have devoted their time to education, research and innovation, said Head of State Tun Haji Juhar Haji Mahiruddin at the 13th convocation of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here yesterday.

He also told the graduates that their degree is part of the requirements to achieve bigger success in the future.

Your ability to adapt to the new environment and to make use of your knowledge is important in ensuring continuous success in the job market,” the Governor said.

He said the graduates surely realise that globalisation has and is changing the way people think, act and respond “and all these require mental resilience”.

Tun Juhar also said the graduates would have better communication skills and imbued with positive values with the knowledge they have now.

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Acting Sabah Customs director Janathan Kandok (left) receiving his PhD in Creative Art from the Governor. He is the most senior Customs officer in Malaysia with a PhD. The main focus of his research was on "sundai" and its relations to belief, education and the Kadazandusun people’s world view. The 54-year-old from Kota Marudu also holds a Masters degree in Education, Training and Development from Hull University in UK and a Degree in Management and Finance from Walsh University in the U.S. In 2000, he won the Sastera Perdana Malaysia award.
Varsity can shape the world

acquired coupled with “soft skills”.
And, he also pointed out that studies have shown that experience, ethics and a good command of foreign languages especially, English, were crucial in this era of globalisation.

Meanwhile, UMS yesterday conferred a honorary Doctorate in Organisational Sociology on former Head of State Tun Ahmadshah Abdullah.

The university said it recognised Tun Ahmadshah's efforts in helping the state government reduce poverty in Sabah and raise the quality of life of the needy in terms of economic, social, educational, mental, spiritual and physical development.

It said this was achieved through the setting up of the Tun Ahmadshah Foundation on March 6, 2004.

In his acceptance speech, Tun Ahmadshah, who was UMS chancellor from January 2003 to December 2010, said there was no shortcut to success in life, especially in the world of employment.

"One must accept the ups and downs of the world of employment by working even harder to overcome the shortcomings and develop oneself for a life of comfort," he said.

Earlier, Tun Juhar who is UMS chancellor said many achievements could be attributed to Tun Ahmadshah when he was the university's chancellor.

He said Tun Ahmadshah's concern and support has placed UMS on a sound footing and thanked him for his contribution to the intellectual and physical development at the university.

Sabah Art Gallery director Datuk Mohd Ya­man Ahmad Mus was conferred an honorary Masters in Visual Art Technology in recognition of his contribution to art development in Sabah.

Over 4,000 students are scheduled to receive their degrees at the three-day convocation.

Also present yesterday was Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman who is also the pro-chancellor of UMS.