KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has broadened its academic spectrum with potential collaborations with the University of Kochi, Japan.

Speaking during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UMS and University of Kochi at UMS yesterday, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Associate Professor Datuk Dr Hj Kasim Hj Md Mansur said that the scope of the MoU will cover faculty; student and postdoctoral exchange of academic conference; training; seminar, and symposium.

"I believe this MoU will serve as a starting point for us to work strategically together in the near future in the areas of mutual interest between the two universities," he added.

University of Kochi was represented by its president, Dr Hiroko Minami.

According to Dr Minami, she hopes that the two universities can collaborate on areas other than those specified in the MoU as well, such as developing collaborative researches on natural disasters.

Offering educational services since 1944 at the height of World War II, University of Kochi began as a women’s university focusing on the general education of women and emphasising on health care by 1952.

In 2011, the institution started admitting male students, offering more undergraduate, postgraduate and doctorate programmes in nursing, social welfare, health sciences, and cultural studies.