UMS gets RM75,000 from Sabah Ports for two researches

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd announced its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partnership with the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Borneo Marine Research Centre on two marine conservation researches, Tuesday.

To this end, Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd Managing Director cum Suria Capital Holdings Bhd Group Managing Director Datuk Mohd Fowzi Razi handed over a cheque for RM75,000 to the Director of Borneo Marine Research Institute (UMS), Prof. Dr Saleem Mustafa, in a ceremony at the UMS Chancellory Building.

It is to sponsor two marine conservation projects to be conducted by researchers from the Borneo Marine Research Centre to fund research into two projects, “Ecological connectivity of coral reef with seagrass and mangrove ecosystems” and “Monitoring of reef status and determining the feasibility of coral restoration in Sepangar Bay.”

Fowzi said while operating efficient ports is vital to the economic development of the country, shipping and port activities have an impact on the marine ecosystem.

He said as such, it was only logical and rational that the choice of marine conservation be one of the main CSR initiatives.

“IT is not only the smart thing to do but the right thing to do. And that is why Sabah Ports chose to make marine conservation as one of their primary CSR initiatives.

“Understandably, we cannot do this on our own, so we are happy to partner with the experts in the field. We believe that BMRI is the best party to work with in Sabah on this initiative.”

He added that conservation should be a moral concern and public effort, not just a CSR obligation.

“We are aware that when it comes to conservation efforts, much needs to be done. On our part, Sabah Port aims to continue this CSR partnership with BMRI and UMS and lend its support and cooperation towards marine conservation for the benefit of the State and its people.”

Saleem said the projects were about conserving the marine biodiversity which the world is losing at a very fast rate.

“We should understand that the loss of one species signals the demise of other species and disruption in the mechanisms of nature that sustain human survival. It is a complex web of interdependent relationships that plays a vital role in mitigating the effects of climate change and is essential for seafood supply and marine ecosystem services in general.

“With climate change posing a serious challenge for the marine ecosystem, such ocean-based partnership in CSR, in my view is a climate change adaptation strategy linking relevant research with responsible business.

“Hopefully, the pledge that UMS and Sabah Ports are taking today through the CSR initiative will be a showcase of shared vision of the public and private sectors and university and industry towards the ocean,” he said.