KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has offered placement for 5,072 students in its 2013/2014 intake which began yesterday.

Vice chancellor of UMS, Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah (pictured) said from the total, about 60 per cent or 2,813 are students from the arts stream and the remainder from the science stream.

He noted that it was the reverse of what the university had targeted which was to enrol 60 per cent of students from the science stream.

"Nevertheless, UMS strives to improve the number of science students by setting up the Centre for Foundation Studies in Science which accepted 263 students this session," he said at a press conference here yesterday.

Those given offers included 166 international students and 100 underprivileged students from various parts of Sabah.

This year, the number of student intake went up five per cent with the more females at 3,367 compared to 1,705 male students.

For the first time, the registration process and fee payment can be conducted online and open to all Schools in the university.

All the new students will take part in the week-long Minggu Suai Mesra to prepare themselves with life in the campus.

Also present yesterday were deputy vice chancellor, Associate Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Md Mansur, registrar, Datuk Abdullah Mohd Said as well as Associate Professor Dr Murnizam Malik.