

UMS to have in-campus recycling centre

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By Chok Sim Yee

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will soon have its own recycling centre in its campus here following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the university and Hatareka Perunding Sdn Bhd.

UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said the university was the first higher learning institution in Sabah to have its own recycling centre.

"We expect UMS to be the first public higher learning institute (IPTA) to have an in-campus recycling centre, in collaboration with the private sector," he said in a press conference after the signing ceremony here yesterday.

The recycling centre, which will be fully funded by Hatareka Perunding Sdn Bhd, is one of the milestone projects to enable UMS achieve the EcoCampus status by 2017.

As a start, a 700-square-foot building will be built in the campus where it will house an exhibition room and collection point for recyclable items such as papers, glass and aluminum.



Harun (third left) and Hamidon showing exchanging the memorandum documents.

Machinery to compress the recyclable items will be brought in in due course.

"The site for the recycling centre has been identified, and we need to mobilize technical personnel.

"We are now clearing the land and the centre is expected to be completed in three to four months," he said.

Upon completion of the centre, waste products from offices and buildings at the UMS campus

will be transported to the site.

The development of the recycling centre is also based on the green building concept, where it will allow ample air ventilation and natural lighting.

"The green building concept is expected to lower electricity usage and thus reduce utility costs," Harun said.

It was learnt that the recycling centre would meet the bronze rating in terms of the Green Building Index (GBI), though the UMS will put in more effort to achieve a higher rating.

Earlier in his speech, Harun said the EcoCampus was launched on February 7 last year and many activities were held to push the university towards achieving the EcoCampus status by 2017.

Among the activities organized last year were the launching of the EcoCampus Blueprint, setting up of the EcoCampus Management Centre, launching of EcoCampus research fund as well as seminars to boost the awareness of EcoCampus.

UMS has also joined the International Sustainable Campus Network and contributed to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network and South East Asian Sustainability Network.

This year, Harun said the university would focus on reducing carbon footprint,

training all staff involved in manning the Environmental Management System (EMS), conducting environmental audit, setting up a green mechanism, involving in the first Regional Conference of Campus Sustainability as well as implementing milestone projects, one of which is the recycling centre.

"I wish to thank Hatareka Perunding Sdn Bhd for implementing their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme in funding a recycling centre in this university.

"I hope the collaboration between UMS and Hatareka Perunding Sdn Bhd will be strengthened through the promotions carried out at the recycling centre, especially in improving public awareness of the importance of environmental conservation."

Also present were UMS registrar Datuk Abdullah Mohd Said, EcoCampus Management Centre director Dr Awangku Hassan Bahar Pengiran Bagul and Hatareka Perunding Sdn Bhd managing director Ir Hamidon Mohd Ali.