

UMS and Niosh to collaborate in R&D

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Niosh) to pave the way for future collaboration in research and development (R&D).

Vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said the partnership would allow UMS to leverage on the expertise of Niosh not only in R&D but also in its future planning and administration improvement.

"This positive impact will help improve UMS' quality and competitiveness as well as create a more conducive environment that will allow academicians, staff and students to be more productive," he said during the signing.

Niosh was represented by its chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thee.

Dr Harun UMS emphasized on Occupational Safety Health (OSH); fully realizing that accidents at the workplace would not only result in increased spending but may also cost invaluable time and human resources.

He added that UMS had the potential to be a model university for good OSH practices, which can be



Lee (second R) and Harun (second L) showing the signed MoU between UMS and Niosh.

emulated by other higher learning institutes and other organizations in the region.

Lee meanwhile said the MoU would allow Niosh to share its expertise with UMS, towards creating a higher learning institution that is sensitive towards the safety and health of its workers.

Beyond that, he said the partnership was also hoped to help produce students who are knowledgeable and supportive towards OSH.

"This will provide a platform for continuous collaboration

in research as well as training for lecturers, supporting staff, contractors and students of UMS.

"The MoU will also give both parties opportunities to work together in producing new products and services that are creative and innovative.

"Among the things that we can potentially explore include setting up an OSH teaching lab and exhibition centre, risk evaluation and safety tools testing labs, competency simulation programmes and so on," he said.