KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) now has a Visual Technology Lab and has already successfully published an academic journal.

The Che Zulkarnain Abidin Visual Technology Lab has 20 Apple iMac computers, two editing machines and an editing studio.

It was named such in recognition of Che Zulkarnain's contribution and effort in realising the Visual Arts Technology programme.

According to the Dean of the School of Arts Studies, Associate Professor Haji Inon Shaharuddin, the lab cost RM250,000 and was fully used by students and lecturers beginning early this year.

At present, 40 students are in the programme.

"In this lab, students will be taught the latest computer software in line with current industrial demands. This will give them the opportunity to produce work of quality and comparable to work by students of other universities.

"All types of work can be done at the lab ranging from animation, advertising, film editing and video clips," he said.

The lab was officially opened by former UMS vice chancellor Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Abu Hassan Othman here yesterday.

He also launched a journal "Gendang Alam" produced by the lab which contains seven articles in the first edition and a research report. Four of those were in Bahasa Melayu and four in English.