

M'sian youths must have broad international perspectives

US Ambassador

Lakhdhir (second left) and Sharifudin (second right) during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



By DK RYNI QAREENA

KOTA KINABALU: It is important that young people have a broad international perspective because they are the future leaders of Malaysia, said United States Ambassador to Malaysia, Ambassador Kamala Shirin Lakhdhir yesterday.

Speaking at the soft launching ceremony of the Sabah American Corner at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Library, Lakhdhir said, "Students and youths are the future leaders of Malaysia and they need to educate themselves with a very broad and deep perspective."

"It is very important that this corner is developing students in this university and they are going to use it to the benefit of developing perspectives, hopes, dreams and visions for both Malaysia and themselves."

Lakhdhir who also delivered a talk on "US - Malaysia Relations" following the launch yesterday said, "I encourage young people to find the opportunity to leave their country and experience different cultures, way of thinking and doing things that give them much better understanding when they return to their own country."

According to her, the American Corner also represents the increasingly close relationship between Sabah, Malaysia and the US.

"As an ambassador, my goal is to develop a very warm and valuable relationship between the people of Sabah and the people of the US."

"One of the ways that we are very interested in doing is to have students and young people in Sabah travel to US and experience the US directly and to meet many different kinds of people," she said adding that they will also bring over Americans to experience Sabah.

"This American Corner represents what we can bring here



Lakhdhir (right) visiting the hands-on exhibition area.

for you to experience US and we'll also bring Americans here so they can experience Sabah and this university directly and develop that relationship between our two people which is critical for the long term relationship between our countries.

"The commitment of developing relationships between the people is important because it is for the long term, not only for today or next year, but for the next 50 or 100 years," said Lakhdhir.

The soft launching was co-officiated by the US Ambassador and Prof. Dr. Sharifudin Md. Shaarani, Dean of Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition who represented UMS Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd. Harun Abdullah.

"Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between UMS and the US Embassy on Sept 23 last year, various activities have been organized by the corner including Scuba Diving Program, Meet and Greet with Band Break of Reality and recently Depression and Anxiety talk in conjunction with the World Health Day," said Sharifudin.

"I would therefore encourage everyone to join the events organized by the corner as I am sure it will be a valuable resources to enrich our personal learning as well as extra resources for teaching, research and publication purposes," he added.

The American Corner will house materials about the US and organize activities which will be benefited by UMS and the local community apart from providing the most up-to-date and accurate information about US policies, education, geography, history and culture among others.

It also offers the access to a wide range of multimedia information where visitors can browse through American periodicals, borrow New York Times best sellers, view DVDs and have hands-on experience with "maker" tools and gadgets.

The UMS Library American Corner is the 10th in Malaysia, joining a network of nine others currently operating in eight states namely Perak, Penang (Seberang Jaya and George Town), Kedah, Kelantan, Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Johor and Sarawak.