



Dr Vairappan (seated centre) posing with UMS Vice-Chancellor Taufiq Yap Yun Hin (left) and staff of Japan Consular Office.

## UMS professor receives Japanese commendation

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**KOTA KINABALU:** The Embassy of Japan presented the Foreign Minister's Commendation for FY 2021 to Dr Charles S. Vairappan, Professor of Natural Products Chemistry at the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), in recognition of his contribution in promoting education and research between Japan and Malaysia.

The award ceremony was held at the Consular Office of Japan in Kota Kinabalu on Nov 23.

Dr Vairappan, who obtained his PhD from the Graduate School

of Environmental Earth Science at Hokkaido University in 2001, has continuously paved the way in the bilateral promotion of education and research between Japan and Malaysia throughout his academic career.

He has also been involved in joint research activities with Japanese research institutions through Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) project, and JICA Third Country Training Program (TCTP) on biodiversity conservation in Sabah.

Through his great

achievements, Dr Vairappan represents an excellent example of the successful implementation of the "Look East Policy", which will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year.

The Embassy of Japan expects his continuous contribution to cement our good bilateral relationship.

Every year, the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation is awarded to recognise and honour individuals and organisations that have made tremendous contribution to promote friendship between Japan and other countries.