



Yayasan Sime Darby CEO Dr Yatela Zainal Abidin presenting a souvenir to UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Prof Madya Ts Dr Ramzah Dambul.

UMS, YSD collaborate on project in Sandakan Bay

TBP 22.01.2022 P.07

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Yayasan Sime Darby (YSD) are collaborating on a project to restore forest biodiversity, carbon sequestration and improvement of ecosystem services in the conservation set-aside area (CSA) in Sandakan Bay.

The project is fully funded by

YSD with a fund of RM2,000,000 for a period of three years.

UMS vice-chancellor Prof Datuk ChM Ts Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin said the project will involve four Sime Darby estates, namely Sentosa, Tunku, Tun Tan Siew Sin and Tigowis estates.

"This will benefit the estate staff as they will be able to access cleaner water thanks to the

restoration of water catchment.

"We also aim to set up a baseline where long-term changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services can be monitored," he said here on Friday.

This collaboration will pave the way for better ecosystem services for downstream communities, while at the same

time restoring riparian buffers and increasing carbon stocks as well as biodiversity in the CSA.

It is understood that YSD will also help enhance the local capacity in forest restoration research through the training of undergraduate and postgraduate students, especially from the UMS Faculty of Forestry and Tropics.