

UMP SET UP FUND FOR JAPAN'S TRIPLE DISASTERS

In a show of solidarity and communal concern for Japan's recent triple disasters, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has set up a humanity aid fund on March 28 to help ease the suffering faced by the people from the Land of the Rising Sun.

The launching of the fund was officiated by the Dean of Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (PBMSK), Professor Dr. Abdul Jalil Borham, on behalf of UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim.

The fund was launched in conjunction with the university's "Love Your Earth" campaign, organized by the Human Sciences Club, in close cooperation with PBMSK, the Department of Students' Affair & Alumni, and a non-governmental organization, Soka Gakkai Malaysia (Pahang



On-Campus
Info

Chapter).

The three-day campaign, held at the library's auditorium at UMP Gambang campus, also showcased an exhibition entitled "Seeds of Hopes" to promote love and concern for the environment.

According to Professor Dr Abdul Jalil, sustainable development had become a global community agenda agreed during a United Nations conference on environment in Rio de Janeiro.

"Loss of biodiversity, decline in natural resources, global warming, climate change and natural disaster are signs of sustainable development being compromised.

"Researchers have linked that natural phenomenon such as earthquake, volcano eruption, massive flooding and storms are caused by human greed when carrying out development activities," he added.

He also said one could not deny

the role of science and technology in helping to improve civilization, but neglecting the safety and sustainability aspect would bring about adverse impacts on the earth's biodiversity balance.

This could threaten the lives of human and other form of lives on earth, he added.

He hoped UMP students would be ethical advocates and engineering practitioners who were aware of the importance of maintaining earth sustainability.

Meanwhile, Soka Gakkai Pahang chairman Micheal Kok Fook On said the organisation had conducted similar exhibitions abroad such as Australia, Italy, Jordan, Taiwan and United Kingdom.

He added that it was about sharing the responsibility of caring the earth for future generation.

UMP, SIRIM AGREED TO DEVELOP NANO TECHNOLOGY

Realising the importance of developing nano technology in the country, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Sirim Malaysia Berhad (SIRIM) has agreed to cooperate in matters relating to transfer of technology and training as well as carry out joint research so as to spur growth in the area.

The cooperation involved human resource development through training and exchange of experts between UMP and SIRIM.

Other than UMP, SIRIM was also working together with South Korea's AJOU University and Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST).

A document exchange ceremony was held at Grand Borneo Hotel, Kota



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Kinabalu, Sabah on June 7, 2011 in conjunction with the International Research and Commercialisation of Nano Technology (ICONT 2011).

UMP was represented by Faculty of Science and Industrial Technology Faculty dean Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff while SIRIM, by Research and Technology Department Deputy President Dr Zainal Abidin Mohd Yusof.

It was witnessed by Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili.

In his speech, Datuk Seri Dr Maximus said the government had decided to create several centres of excellence (CoE) for nano technology in a move to build up a strong national research and to further encourage its development.

"MOSTI is now evaluating nano technology centres which will be selected as

centres of excellence (CoE). There is a huge need to build up research capability.

"Under the Ninth Malaysian Plan until 2010, the government has invested some RM140 million for research and development grants. Malaysia now has 16 centres that focus on nano technology research involving 450 researchers," he added.

According to Professor Dr Mashitah, the cooperation between the faculty and Nano Technology Industry Research Centre (INTeRC) would allow UMP to conduct strategic integration project in teaching, research and development of advanced materials by focusing on nano substance for renewable energy application.

She also said both parties had expressed their intentions to work closer in obtaining international and national grants in advanced material field including developing prototypes.