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Prof. Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said the MoU would pave the way for collaborations into various programmes such as transfer of technology programme, food processing and research in bio-technology.

It would also look into the possibilities of establishing incubators, he added. "The cooperation to be forged in bio-technology will allow UMP and SEDIA to mutually share their expertise," he said.

The seminar was officially opened by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Yahya Haji Hussin.

Also present were Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr. Won Bin, its Deputy Minister Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar Diah, Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation Chief Executive

Officer Dato' Dr. Nazlee Mohd Kamal, SaBC Director Dr. Abdul Fatah Amir and Deputy State Secretary Datuk Pounis Yuntavid.

Others included UMP Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof. Dr. Mashitah Mohd. Yusoff and Faculty of Industrial Management (FIM) Dean Dr. Ridzuan Darun.

UMP delegation members also took time off to visit and meet entrepreneurs of the States Gaya House and Balung River Eco Resort Sdn. Bhd. where herbs and plants such as patchouli, ginger, vanilla and 'misaikucing' were planted.

The visit also gave an overview of how essential oil was processed which provided an insight for UMP in paring for the construction of UMP Bio-Aromatic Project in Pahang.

## UMP TOOK PART IN MOSTI'S TRADE AND INVESTMENT MISSION FOR BIO-TECHNOLOGY IN MILAN, ITALY

BY: MOHD NIZAM ABDUL RASHID

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) was part of the member delegation of a two-day trade and investment mission to Milan, Italy organised by Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation SdnBhd (BiotechCorp).

The delegation, led by Minister Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin, was in the country on June 8 and 9, 2015.

The objective of the trip was to explore the potentials of penetrating into the European market by promoting bio-based products as well as to attract investors to venture into Malaysia's Bio-Economy Transformation Programme. UMP's delegation members were Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof. Dr. Mashitah Mohd Yusoff and Mr. Mohd Nizam Abdul Rashid (Department of Research and Innovation).

UMP was also given the honour to deliver a presentation titled, 'Opportunities for Bio-industry in Pahang'. The university shared the stage with Invest Selangor Berhad, Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA) and Bio-Nexus status company, Algaetech International Sdn. Bhd.

It was noted that UMP was the only university representing the institute of higher learning in the trade mission, displaying the paramount confidence that the stakeholders had on UMP. It was a smooth presentation with UMP highlighting the opportunities available in bio-industry in Pahang including the incentives and prospects offered in the East Coast Economic Region Special Economic Zone.



UMP's presentation to potential partners on opportunity in Bioeconomy in Pahang



Prof. Dr. Mashitah explaining potential collaboration with one of the European participant

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