

# NEW SABAH TIMES

Sabah's First Established Paper

Number 12680 Friday September 23, 2005  
 PPH223/Z/2006 Sabah RM 1.20  
<http://www.dailySabahTimes.com.my>



SABAH RAPIDLY BECOMING CENTRE OF CANOPY SCIENCE IN ASEAN REGION, SAYS TAN SRI CHONG KAH KIAT – p2



SABAH MUST POSITION ITSELF AS VITAL REGIONAL PLAYER TO BENEFIT FROM EAST ASIA'S EXPANDING ECONOMY – p3  
 MIG MARITIME  
 CHAIRMAN TAN SRI  
 HALIM OTHMAN:  
 SHIPPING VITAL  
 TO MALAYSIA'S  
 ECONOMY – page 3



M'SIA PLACES SECURITY FORCES AT BORDER ON ALERT, SAYS DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK – p4  
 THE SELF-EMPLOYED CAN ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND – page 12

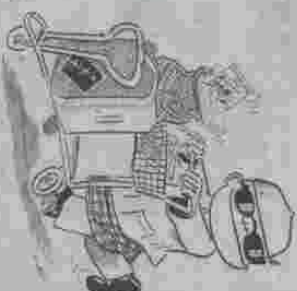
*AirAsia*  
Malaysian Airline Car. Pj.

*Buka Pasa Specials!*

Travel period: 23-29 Oct 2005

K. Kinabalu • Kuala Lumpur

from RM **139.99** one way



**Book Now!** (7 days advance booking required)

Buy Online [www.altrasia.com](http://www.altrasia.com) | Buy on Mobile [mobile.altrasia.com](http://mobile.altrasia.com) | 1 300 88 99 33

Altrasia Car Centre  
 Altrasia Car Centre is a registered agent for AirAsia. All fares are subject to availability and change without notice. © 2005 Altrasia Car Centre.

# Sabah sasar jadi pusat Sains Sudur di Asean

**KOTA KINABALU:** Sabah mensasarkan untuk menjadi pusat Sains Sudur di rantau Asean tidak lama lagi, kata Timbalan Ketua Menteri Tan Sri Chong Kah Kiat.

Beliau berkata beberapa aktiviti pembangunan berkaitan sudur telah dikenal pasti bagi tujuan itu, dan ia termasuk mengadakan kursus latihan sudur bagi saintis hutan Asean di negeri ini.

Program latihan itu dibangunkan oleh Global Canopy Programme dan Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) dengan kerjasama Yayasan Sabah dan Royal Society of the United Kingdom, dan ia akan dilaksanakan selama tiga tahun dari 2005-2007 di bawah geran Inisiatif Darwin dan diteruskan dibawah pimpinan UMS, katanya.

"Kursus itu adalah yang pertama seumpamanya dijalankan di rantau ini untuk mengajar

saintis, pelajar, penyokong pemuliharaan dan pengurus hutan untuk memanajit pokok dan menjalankan kajian sudur.

"Kita percaya kursus latihan ini akan menarik minat lebih ramai saintis dari seluruh rantau Asean dan akan bertindak sebagai program latihan perdana bagi program lain di masa depan," katanya.

Kah Kiat, yang juga Menteri Pelancongan, Kebudayaan dan Alam Sekitar Negeri berkata demikian semasa merasmikan bengkel "Program Latihan Sudur bagi Rantau Asean" di kampus utama UMS di sini, kelmarin.

Beliau berkata latihan sudur yang pertama di bawah program itu telah berjaya dijalankan di Pusat Latihan Lembah Danum pada Januari dan Februari 2005 yang disertai 18 peserta dari Malaysia, Filipina dan China.

# Exploring the unknown tree-top world

## Kan Yaw Chong

**DA KINABALU:** About 90 per cent of Earth's bio-materials or biomass interfaces with the atmosphere through forest canopies, yet scientists still know less about the canopy than the surface of the sea, says Andrew Mitchell, Director of Global Canopy Programme.

Mitchell's statement confirms the regular scientists' admission they know precious little about life on the canopy, how they interact with one another and their environment.

This concern is prompting a major international workshop here to work out a major collaborative search and training programme of canopy research in the Asian region on the impact of climate change on forests, involving scientists from Malaysia, China, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The scientists are currently attending a workshop at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to figure out the research and training in the region.

Deputy Chief Minister-eun-Tourism, Culture and Environmental Minister, Tan Sri Chong Kah Kai, launched the programme at the UMS.

"Trees produce organic compounds which are precursors to 'green' and 'brown' clouds, bringing rain to forested regions but rising CO<sub>2</sub> is altering the way forests work," Mitchell asserted.

"We urgently need a global effort to predict altered rainfall patterns, cause outbreaks and flood risks which may be heightened due to the negative effects of rising CO<sub>2</sub> on the way the canopy functions. This is not only affecting Bornean forests but forests all over the world," he said.

The importance of this research programme can be gleaned from the fact that the canopies of the world's forests contain about 40 per cent of all life on Earth but it is also the unknown part of the forests.

The course is to train the next generation of forest canopy scientists that Malaysia builds its capacity to investigate this unknown part of forests, UMS researchers said.

The Sabah-based pioneering tropical forest canopy research training programme is developed by the Institute of Tropical Biology Observation (ITBO) at the UMS, the Global Canopy Programme (GCP) with funding from the UK Government's Darwin Initiative.

Attendees will discuss the training needs of scientists from the Asian region and develop plans for the continuation of these.

"We are creating the leaders of the future in this exciting field," said Prof. Dr. Datin Maryati Mohammedi, Director of ITBO.

"Malaysia has the tallest and some of the most biodiverse tropical forest in the world, its widely spaced trees having led to extremely high

numbers of gliding and flying animals. Yet we lack the capacity for our own researchers to know what exists in the canopy or how much value it has for mankind," she said.

The training course aims to change all that in a quite capacity, she added. Maryati also cited what she described as an "exciting" collaborative canopy science research programme in Sabah focusing on a new large scale facility called Whole Forest Observatory (WFO) centred around a towering canopy crane set up in the forest.

"This facility will become part of an international network of such observatories across the tropics supported by the United Nations Environment Programme," she said.

"WFO provides the infrastructure for intensive three-dimensional access to the forest from leaf tip to root tip," she asserted.

The project has received first stage approval from the Federal Government of Malaysia.

"The Global Environment Facility of the UN had pledged almost US\$6 million (about RM2.5 million) in support of the Whole Forest Observatory which is being developed by Global Canopy Programme," she noted.

"Brazil, Ghana, India and Madagascar are planning to host WFO along with Malaysia," Maryati said.

"Each country will be invited to contribute to the costs of developing the network, which will study the impact of climate change on biodiversity and the world's forests," she said.

Given the training course, the planned WFO for Sabah and an existing canopy crane in Sarawak, Malaysia is emerging as a leader in canopy science in ASEAN.

Meanwhile, Mitchell said canopy research can tell a lot about the way biodiversity affects climate change and vice versa.

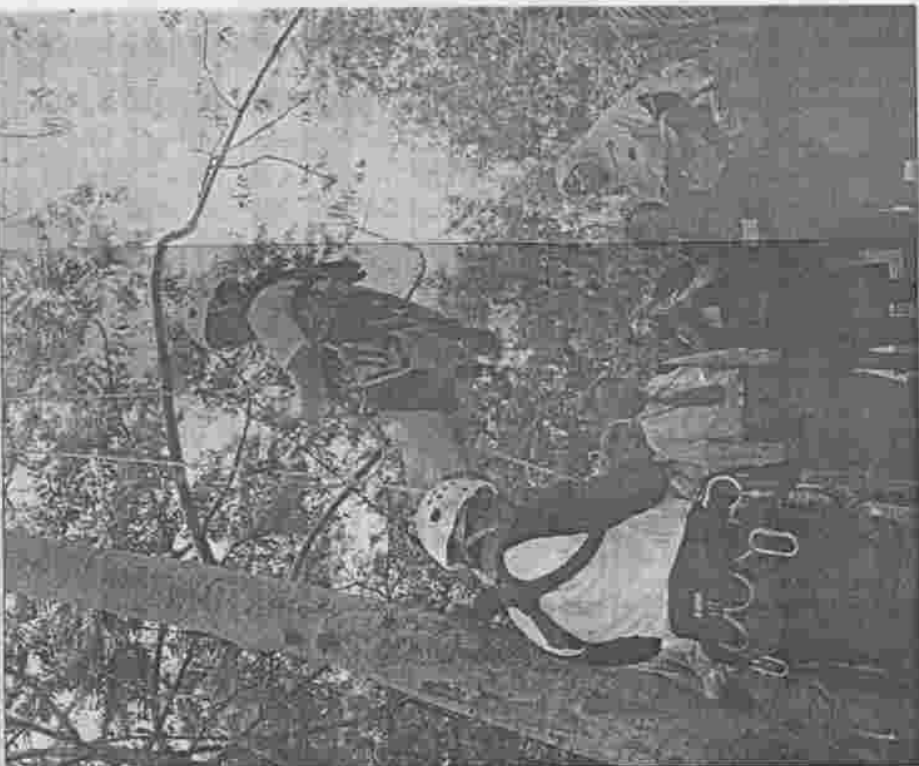
He listed benefits such as canopy eco-tourism.

"This project will help Malaysia to achieve goals outlined in the Rainforest Knowledge Industries initiative and to fulfil its obligations to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity," he added.

"Almost 40 per cent of all species on Earth are believed to exist in the forest canopy," Mitchell pointed out.

"Since it is also where life meets the atmosphere, this habitat is extremely vulnerable to climate change. Yet few scientists have the height or skills to explore this tree-top world, which is home to the clouded leopard, hornbills, gibbons, orang-utans and millions of secretive species whose lives remain undocumented," he noted.

New techniques deployed to explore the canopy world range from climbing ropes to balloons, giant construction cranes and even airlifts.



UMS student Kulsum Mohd Yusoh demonstrating free climbing to conduct canopy study opening of "Canopy Training Programme for the Asian Region" at the university's main

# Top-notch researchers, scientists to participate in Sabah Canopy Workshop

KOTA KINABALU: Top researchers and scientists from six countries including Malaysia will meet here on Thursday to develop plans for an important new programme of canopy research in the Asean region.

Scientists from Britain, China, Indonesia, Japan and Philippines will deliberate on the impact of climate change on forests during the Sabah Canopy Workshop.

The workshop to be officiated by State Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Tan Sri Chong Kah Kiat will also provide training.

The course will train the next generation of forest canopy scientists so that Malaysia builds its capacity to investigate this unknown part of the world's forests that contain 40 per cent of all life on earth.

The pioneering tropical forest canopy research training programme is developed by the Institute of Tropical Biology Conservation (ITBC) at the University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and the Global Canopy Programme (GCP) with funding from the UK Government's Darwin Initiative which is based in Sabah.

Attendees will discuss the training needs of scientists from the Sean region and develop plans for the continuation of these successful courses.

"We are creating the leaders of the future in this exciting field," said the local course coordinator Prof Datin Maryati Mohammed, who is also the director of ITBC.

"Malaysia has the tallest and some of the most biodiverse tropical forests in the world and its widely spaced trees have led to extremely high number of gliding and 'flying' animals.

"Yet we lack the capacity for our own researchers to know what exists in the canopy or how much value it has for mankind. Our canopy training course is starting to change all that," she said.

# Sabah hub of forest canopy research

■ **By Jasvinder Kaur**  
*jasv@ntu.com.my*

**KOTA KINABALLU, Thurs.** — Sabah is set to become a hub for forest canopy research in the region through a three-year collaboration involving several parties including Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

The collaboration includes capacity building for scientists and training researchers and students to climb to the forest canopy to conduct studies.

UMS, through its Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, is working with the United Kingdom-based Global Canopy Programme (GCP), Yayasan Sabah and the Forestry Department to conduct a forest canopy training programme.

Funding for the programme is from the Darwin Initiative. An estimated 40 per cent of

species in the world live in the forest canopy.

Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Chung Kah Kiat said the development of the training programme marked a new era of research for Asian forest scientists.

Recent studies state that 70 to 80 per cent of invertebrates captured in the upper canopy of tropical rainforests have not been recorded by science.

"Sabah is home to some of the oldest and richest rainforests on earth with trees growing to more than 75 metres in height.

"Due to difficulties in reaching the forest canopy, this habitat has been the least studied," he said.

Chong said this when opening a three-day workshop on canopy training for the Asian region at the UMS campus here today.



**UP WE GO:** Post-graduate student Katsun Mohd Yusah showing how to use the forest canopy equipment in UMS.

By JENNE LAJIUN

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah is rapidly becoming a centre of canopy science not only in Malaysia but also in the Asean region.

In view of this, the state will be seeing a number of development activities associated with tropical forest canopy training programme within the next few years.

One of the five proposed programmes, "Whole Forest Observatories" (WFOs), which will include the construction of a canopy crane and associated research on the economic potential of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) from the canopy and "Canopy based eco-tourism" and the establishment of a global canopy based conservation network, is being planned for the first phase with assistance from UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and GEF (Global Environment Facility) of the World Bank.

Launching the Canopy Training Programme for the ASEAN region at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday, Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Chong Kah Kiat said Sabah presently has two canopy walkways with platforms suspended from 20 to 30 metres above ground at Danum Valley and at Poring.

In addition, a 100-metre canopy flux tower has also been erected at Danum Valley.

"I am told that no other Malaysian states, and in fact, no other Asean countries have invested so much in canopy science and infrastructure," Kah Kiat said.

He also commended the Global Canopy Programme (GCP), UMS, Sabah Foundation and the Royal Society's South East Asian Rainforest

# SABAH A CENTRE OF CANOPY SCIENCE, SAYS KAH KIAT

Research Project (SEARRP) for holding the Tropical Forest Canopy Training Programme for Asean region in Sabah.

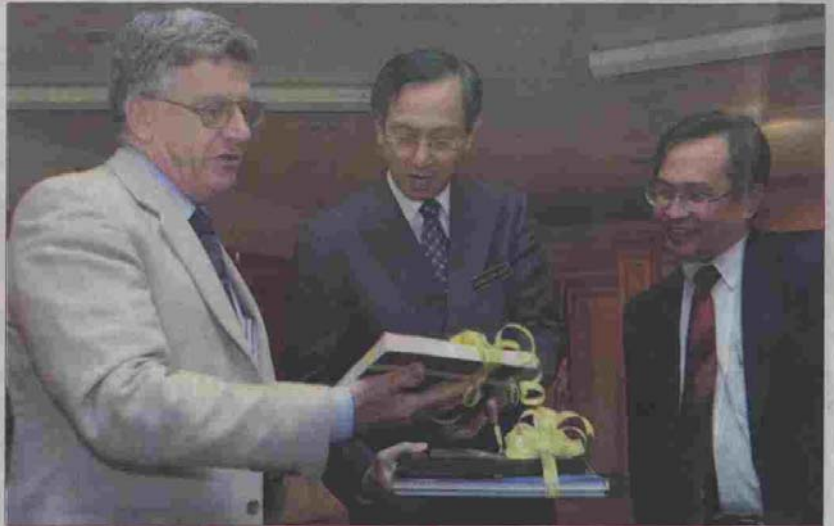
"The development of the canopy training course in Sabah heralds the start of a new era of research for Asean forest scientists," he said.

Kah Kiat who is also Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister said the course, which was the first of its kind to be conducted in this region to teach scientists, students, conservationists and forest managers to climb trees and conduct canopy studies, would run for three years from 2005 to 2007 under the grant of the Darwin Initiative.

The first Canopy Training Course under this programme was successfully conducted at the Danum Valley Field Centre in January and February, this year. It saw the participations of a total of 18 participants from Malaysia, the Philippines and China.

The training course is expected to attract more scientists from around the Asean region and will act as a flagship training programme for others to be conducted in the near future.

Kah Kiat meanwhile said that as new modes were being designed by scientists to reach the highest of forest canopies, studies on its rich



Prof Kitching presents a book as a token of appreciation to Kah Kiat while Dr Mohd Noh looks on

biodiversity may finally be made.

"An estimated 40 per cent of all species live in the canopy, 10 per cent of all vascular plants are canopy dwellers while about 20 to 25 per cent of all invertebrate species considered unique to the canopy," he said.

He also said recent studies estimated that 70 to 80 per cent of invertebrates captured in the upper canopy of tropical rainforests have not been described by science.

In addition, the forest canopy also plays a crucial part as a global climate influencer.

"Forest canopies intercept 25 per cent of precipitation over 45 million hectares of the land surface and 90 per cent of the earth's biomass interfaces with the atmosphere through forest canopies.

"Unfortunately, this least studied habitat on the surface

of the earth, is also the most threatened," he said.

Also present were UMS vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin, UMS tropical biology and conservation institute's director Prof Datin Dr Maryati-Mohamed and GCP representative Prof Roger Kitching.

# THE BORNEO POST

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

## Sabah to have sole Observatory in SE Asia for studying rainforest canopies

By Harjinder Kler

**KOTA KINABALU:** Sabah is one of five sites worldwide and the only one in Southeast Asia that will have a Whole Forest Observatory (WFO) to study Nature's last frontier—canopy of the rainforest which is the richest yet the least explored and most threatened habitat in the world.

This was announced by the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Tan Sri Chong Kah Kiat at the opening of a three-day workshop entitled "Canopy Training Programme for the Asean Region".

The event at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is attended by participants from Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia, China, Japan and United Kingdom.

The project is the result of the efforts carried out by Global Canopy Programme (GCP), a six-year-old United Kingdom-based charity, to support, promote and fund the study of forest canopy. The organisation has alliances with 22 institutions which support canopy science worldwide.

WFO is a large scale towering canopy centered around a towering canopy crane setup in the forest. It will provide the infrastructure for intensive three-dimension access to the forest from leaf tip to root tip. The Global Environmental Facility of the UN has pledged almost US\$6 million in support of the five WFOs in Brazil, Ghana, Madagascar, India and Sabah.

"I have been informed that the forest canopy is one of the richest, if not the richest in terms of biodiversity. An estimated 40 percent of all species live in the canopy and yet it is the most threatened and least explored habitat on the surface of the earth," said Chong in his official address.

The development of the canopy training course in Sabah, said the Minister, is the start of a new era of research for Asean forest scientists and is the first of its kind to teach scientist, students, conservationists and forest managers to climb into trees to conduct canopy studies.

"I am told that no other Malaysian state and in fact no other Asean country has invested so much for canopy science and infrastructure. We are indeed proud that Sabah is rapidly becoming the centre of canopy science not only in Malaysia but in the Asean region," said Chong, who also pledged that the State Government would provide the necessary support and assistance to ensure the programme continue.

Meanwhile, UMS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Mohd. Noh Dalimin announced that the University would be incorporating canopy training programme under the modules taught in postgraduate and even undergraduate programmes.

•Continued in Page 2



Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) student Kulsam Mohd Yusoh demonstrating tree climbing to conduct canopy studies after the opening of 'Canopy Training Programme for the Asean Region', at the university's main campus yesterday. The programme was developed by the Global Canopy Programme and UMS in collaboration with Yayasan Sabah and the Royal Society of the United Kingdom. - Bernama photo

## UMS creating future leaders

### ■ From Page One

"We are confident that when the present canopy training programme is completed, UMS will emerge as one of the first institutions of higher learning in Malaysia and probably in Asean region as well which has the capacity to not only conduct scientific research in Nature's 'last frontier', the rainforest canopy, but also train others in the Asean region to do the same," said Mohd Noh in his speech.

Professor Datin Maryati Mohammed, who heads UMS's Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ITBC), said that the University is creating the future leaders in this exciting new field.

One of the aims of the three-day workshop is to prepare and discuss a canopy training syllabus and develop a canopy training manual for future training courses.

So far, 19 participants from Malaysia, the Philippines and China have participated in an on-site training course held in Danum Valley Field Centre (DVFC) in January/

February this year. The next course is set for November this year with participants returning to DVFC.

"During the 1990's, it became clear the forest canopies contained vast numbers of largely undescribed forms of life. Forest canopies are the interface between this biodiversity and the atmosphere above on which life on Earth depends," explained Professor Roger Kitching, the representative of GCP.

"Rather than destroying the canopies of the forests as part of the pursuit of high profits in the short term, they hold the promise of sustainable income to those who own and inhabit the world's forest through well managed tourism by the development of canopy products such as rattan; by canopy 'farming' to bring new products to horticultural markets and by the exploration for new products for health, cosmetic and industrial products," stated Kitching, who will be leading the proceedings of the three-day training.



Home About UMS Sitemap Contact Us

English | Malayu



## Recent News

### [WORLDS TOURISM ORGANIZATION VISITS THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS](#)

On 16 December 2005, a delegation from the World Tourism Organization (WTO) of the Democratic Peoples Republic (DPR) of Korea visited the School of Business and Economics part of the Fellowship Program; they were accompanied by their host, the ... < [continue reading](#) >

### [UMS TOWARDS BUILDING CAPACITY TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN NATURES LAST FRONTIER - THE RAINFOREST CANOPY](#)

The tropical rainforest of Southeast Asia is already well known as one of the most biodiverse rainforests in the world. With some species of trees reaching a height of up to 75 meters tall or more, the Asian tropical rainforest is no doubt... < [continue reading](#) >

### [US AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA VISITS UMS](#)

US Ambassador to Malaysia Christopher LaFleur visited Malaysia and US enjoy rock solid economic ties and is looking into contributing in nature conservation work. LaFleur said this in a public lecture entitled "On Common Ground: Malaysia's Role in Conservation". < [continue reading](#) >

### [UMS TO HOST OIC HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE](#)

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will host the OIC Human Capital Management Conference 2006 on June 14-16 here. The conference is co-organised with the Malaysian Organisation of Islamic Conference Trade Chambers (MOICTC) and the Malaysian Institi... < [continue reading](#) >





Home About UMS Sitemap Contact Us  
:: English | Melayu ::

## MAIN MENU

- [Future Students](#)
  - [Current Students](#)
  - [Parents & Visitors](#)
  - [Academicians & Staff](#)
  - [Corporate Info](#)
- 
- [News](#)

# UMS TOWARDS BUILDING CAPACITY TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN NATURE'S LAST FRONTIER - THE RAINFOREST CANOPY

Apr 04 2006

The tropical rainforest of Southeast Asia is already well known as one of the most biodiverse rainforests in the world. With some species of emergent trees reaching a height of up to 75 meters tall or more, the Asian tropical rainforest is no doubt the tallest rainforest. However, due to its height and structural complexity, not much is known about what exists in the canopy of this forest and how much value it has for mankind. Based on this realization, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has joined in the endeavour to develop and produce a forest canopy training programme for the ASEAN Region together with the Global Canopy Programme (GCP) based in the United Kingdom in collaboration with the Sabah Foundation, the Forestry Department of Sabah, and the Royal Society of South East Asian Rainforests Research Project (SEARRP). This program which will run over a period of three years from 2005 to 2007 receives funding from the UK Government's Darwin Initiative.

The canopy training programme includes teaching rope access skills required to work safely and efficiently in the rainforest canopy and the scientific background. It is also to share information on specific research

techniques used in canopy studies. The first canopy training course which took place from 17 January to 5 February 2005 at Danum Valley Field Centre saw the participation of 19 participants from UMS, Sabah Foundation, SEARRP, Xishuangbanna Tropical Gardens (China) and the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC) in the Philippines. Following the canopy access training course, a workshop was held on 22-24 September 2005 at the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, UMS.

The purpose of this workshop was to discuss a plan for continuing the canopy training course independently by UMS after 2007. This agreement also incorporates: a timescale for inclusion of the training course on the UMS curriculum, strategy for funding the course, and publicising the training course in Malaysia and the ASEAN Region. The workshop was launched by Tan Sri Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, the Deputy Chief Minister of Sabah and also the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment for the state. In his launching speech, the Minister remarked that the Sabah State Government would provide the necessary support and assistance to ensure that the programme continues. A total of 28 participants who participated in the workshop included those from Universitas Gadjah Mada and Mulawarman University (Indonesia), Rainforest Academy of Universiti Putra Malaysia, ARCBC, Xishuangbanna Tropical Gardens, Kyoto University (Japan), Griffith University (Australia), the GCP, SEARRP, Sabah Foundation, Sabah Parks and UMS.

It is envisaged that when the canopy training programme is completed by year 2007 UMS will emerge as one of the first institutions of higher learning in Malaysia and probably in the ASEAN Region, which has the capacity not only to conduct scientific research in nature's last frontier - the rainforest canopy, but also to teach others in the ASEAN Region to do the same. The ultimate goal obviously is to better understand the functions of the rainforest canopy and hence, understand the importance for its conservation.

[Back to Newslist](#)

Corporate Relations Division © 2006 All Copyright Reserved (UMS)  
Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Locked Bag No. 2073, 88999, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia  
Telephone: (+6088) 320000 atau 320474, Fax : (+6088) 320223 or 3201024  
Enquiry: [pejcslor@ums.edu.my](mailto:pejcslor@ums.edu.my), Web Admin: [webadmin@ums.edu.my](mailto:webadmin@ums.edu.my)