

Firm sees great future for 'wonderful' Sabah

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By Jenne Lajiu

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah is a wonderful place and has many great things to offer and a great future.

These are the reasons given by SeaGate Global Group chairman and chief investment officer Professor William Lawton when asked why the company took the decision to invest in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and in Sabah, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with UMS yesterday.

"When we first came to Sabah, we said this is the most wonderful place, there are so many things here, and it has a great future. The campus has a wonderful enlightened leadership and we are lucky to have the right introduction, so we are very

pleased to be able to work with UMS," he said.

He added that it is their first collaborative effort with any university in the country.

"This is the one that we are going to focus our attention to," he said.

Lawton also remarked that they will be investing a substantial amount of money for the implementation of the components indicated in the MoU but was however unable to indicate the amount to be expended for the overall implementation of the proposals since they have yet to express that in budget form.

The components of the MOU includes a proposed pilot programme for an incubator of solar energy demonstrating green technology and affordable construction techniques, a

proposed UMS cultural resort village, a proposed UMS solar power plant, a proposed UMS and Tsinghua University Sisterhood Programme and other areas of cooperation to be mutually agreed upon by both parties such as agriculture and community based projects.

Touching on the proposed UMS solar power plant, Lawton explained that their partner would be supplying the technology and equipment for the implementation and development.

"Our partner already has a turnkey solution on the shelf that they can be readily applied at the university and throughout Sabah and other parts of Malaysia," he said adding that the advantage of having solar power to generate electricity is its renewability and environmental friendliness.



Kamaruzaman (second left) exchanges the sealed documents with Seagate Global Group chairman and chief investment officer Professor William Lawton (second right) at the signing ceremony yesterday.