

# Ensure students adhere to MIB values, minister urges UNISSA

| SYAZWANI HJ ROSLI |

UNIVERSITI Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) should ensure its graduates are well-informed on Islamic teachings as practised in Brunei, the Minister of Education Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman said in a speech at a ceremony marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNISSA.

The minister said UNISSA needs to make sure its educational, research and publishing environment would not be tainted or influenced by ideas that are contrary to the teachings of Sunni Islam.

"UNISSA should ascertain that its students will always adhere to the values that are embodied in the country's philosophy of Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) in their every action - be it academic or in their social life," he said.

He also encouraged UNISSA to take note of the unemployment rate among graduates, in view of the highly competitive job market in Brunei.

"This has often been highlighted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi

Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in which His Majesty said that UNISSA and other local higher educational institutions should ensure that their proffered programmes stay relevant and excellent, in order to generate marketable and well-prepared graduates," he said.

The minister also touched on the upcoming establishment of the Centre of Excellence, saying that he hoped to see the centre as a major platform for developing Brunei into a 'global Halal hub,' in accordance with His Majesty's aspirations.

Regarding UNISSA's programmes, the minister said the institution would need to explore new areas related to national development and current needs towards realising the Brunei Vision 2035.

He assured that the Academic Staff Service Scheme (SPTA), which was introduced in April 2014 by His Majesty would assist the academic staff of UNISSA and other higher educational institutions in meeting standards of quality to contribute to the enhancement of academic, research and community services.

At the same time, the minister called on the students and academic staff of UNISSA to continue their responsibilities towards the local

community, especially in conducting religious talks and classes at mosques, while bringing public awareness to the underprivileged members of society.

"In relation to research, I hope that UNISSA will pay serious attention to the suggestion of His Majesty in strengthening its research profile, so that it can be ranked among the leading Islamic universities in the world," the minister said.

He commended UNISSA's active collaboration with other educational institutions outside Brunei, saying that such initiatives would enhance UNISSA's role in the development of the global 'ummah'.

The minister also urged UNISSA to conduct more research into issues affecting the local community including the decline of moral values, drug abuse and financial problems.

"The results of this research can be used as reference in assisting the government and other relevant agencies to solve these problems", he said.

The minister concluded by congratulating the special award recipients for their hard work, and encouraged them to continue being active, innovative and creative in carrying out their respective duties and responsibilities.



Minister of Education Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman delivers his speech as UNISSA Rector Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal looks on



Dr Hajah Sarinah binti Haji Yahya receiving an award from the guest of honour

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