

UBD signs MoU with Japan's Kagawa University

By Za'im Zaini

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A MEMORANDUM of Understanding (MoU) was signed yesterday between the Institute of Medicine, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, and the Faculty of Medicine, Kagawa University, Japan. The signing ceremony took place at the Senate Room of the UBD Chancellor Hall.

Present as guests of honour were Mr Hashimoto Itsuo, Ambassador of Japan, and Dato Paduka Dr Haji Ismail bin Hj Duraman, Vice Chancellor of UBD. Other guests included delegations from the Kagawa University and UBD principal officers.

The agreement is aimed at seeking ways of working together towards a relationship that contributes to the joint activities between the two institutions. Such joint activities and programmes that will be cooperatively identified and explored are student exchange; faculty exchange; collaborative research; scholarship grants; joint delivery of credential educational programmes; faculty and staff development training programmes; faculty and staff development training programmes; curriculum development and enhancement; instructional strategies through the application of computer multimedia and distance learning technologies; library and laboratory enrichment; and cultural exchange.

Signing on behalf of the institutions were Dr Tomohiko Taminato, Dean of Kagawa University's Faculty of Medicine, and Dr Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, Dean of Institute of Medicine, UBD.

It is hoped that with the memorandum, UBD will strive to fulfil its vision by being "A World Class International University, a Distinctive National Identity".

According to Yoshiyuki Kakehi, Vice Dean of Kagawa University's Faculty of Medicine, they have already started preliminary exchanges as a local doctor is currently



ZAIM ZAINI

UBD's Dr Haji Zulkarnain (left) and Kagawa University's Dr Tomohiko shaking hands at the signing ceremony

working with them, while a paediatrician from Japan is working here.

He said they hope to accommodate more doctors to work there and also for research purposes. He said they picked UBD for the MoU after a recommendation by the former Ambassador of Japan to Brunei. He added that it was the youngest medical school and they hoped to learn from each other. He said that there was possibility that there will be more exchanges apart from in the field of medicine in the future.