

# UCSI to collaborate with foreign varsity to expand academic field

BY GOH PEI PEI

**KUCHING:** UCSI University Sarawak Campus will collaborate with its respective counterparts in Uzbekistan to expand its field in training, teaching and research activities.

This was disclosed by the Dean, Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management UCSI University Prof Dr Li Jian Yao, adding tourism is growing rapidly in Uzbekistan and has great potential and ability to work on building the capacity of workforce for the industry by offer-

ing trainings and seminars.

He was speaking at the official ceremony of 'The Symposium of Tourism Studies' which was held at the USCUI here yesterday. The event was jointly organised by UCSI and Branch of the Russian Economic University.

"Tourism has become one of the most important industries in Malaysia as during last decade Malaysia has grown to be the popular tourist destination in the world.

Malaysia posted an impressive overall tourism growth in 2012 with tourist arrival of 25 million and

receipts climbed to RM60.6 billion. Malaysia Tourism transformation plan 2020 targets 36 million tourists and RM168 billion in receipts in 2020," Li said, adding Malaysia was ranked as the top nine biggest countries in the world for tourist destination in terms of arrival last year by UNWTO Tourism.

Thus, Li strongly believed all kinds of collaboration between Malaysia and Uzbekistan will benefit both side.

Also present at the event was the Sarawak UCSI chief executive officer, Lu Huong Ying.



**PROF** Dr Li (4th right) and Lu (5th left) together with other presenters from Uzbekistan during the event held at UCSI yesterday. PHOTO: GOH PEI PEI