

# UIM TEAMS UP WITH FOUNDATION TO STUDY WELLBEING

**THE** Islamic University of Malaysia (UIM) is working with Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan Selangor Darul Ehsan (YBK) and has recently established the UIM-YBK Chair on Wellbeing to promote and support research, as well as academic pursuits in the emerging aspect of wellbeing.

UIM president Professor Tan Sri Dr Mohd Yusof Noor said the aspect has become a broader and inclusive measure of progress and development.

"This is pursuant to the desire of YBK to examine, understand and refine the various dimensions of wellbeing as the relevant measures of human progress, sustenance and existence."

He said the dimensions include subjective and objective factors, such as social relations, environmental connections, personal, cognitive and spiritual aspects.

"Besides that, the economic and financial perspectives shall be periodically studied, analysed and interpreted. It is also anticipated that research efforts will be geared towards developing a 'Wellbeing Index' for Malaysia."

He said the work of YBK will be complemented with UIM's academic endeavour as the higher-learning institution gears itself to search for truth and wisdom, while expanding the frontiers of knowledge.

Yusof said the UIM-YBK Chair will receive a yearly grant from YBK to support its work and it will be managed by an appointee.

"The appointee to the Chair is Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Sulaiman Md Yassin," said Yusof.

He said apart from conducting re-



Professor Emeritus **Datuk Dr Sulaiman Md Yassin** (second from left) receiving the certificate of appointment as the Chair Professor in Wellbeing from UIM president Professor **Tan Sri Dr Mohd Yusof Noor**. With them are (from left) UIM special projects director Professor **Dr Mohd Khalid Mohd Nor**, Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan Selangor Darul Ehsan trustee **Datuk Bing Selamat** and the UIM vice-president Professor **Datuk Dr Abdul Monir Yaacob**.

search, the Chair holder will publish papers, conduct seminars and conduct graduate courses.

With the establishment of the Chair, UIM will be involved in programmes and activities that are pertinent to YBK's vision and mission to improve the wellbeing of its beneficiaries and the population, in general.

"In future, with the cumulative efforts of the Chair, UIM shall be recognised as a leading institution in well-

being research and become a referral point for wellbeing data and indexes," said Yusof.

Sulaiman is an alumnus of the Royal Military College and had graduated with a PhD from Cornell University, the United States, in 1980. He also spent a year there as a Fulbright Scholar in 1986.

He started his career with the Federal Land Development Authority. He then joined Kolej Pertanian Malaya in 1972, which became Universiti Putra Malaysia

(UPM) in 1974. He retired as the vice-chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu in 2009.

For the last 30 years, he has been involved in national and international projects funded by the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the Asean Secretariat, World Council of Mosques, the International Atomic Energy Agency, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific and Gov-

ernment of Malaysia.

Sulaiman has also worked as a consultant in more than 16 countries.

He is also the inter-country coordinator in developing an Asean modular programme, funded by the Australian government and Asean.

His research interests are in the measurement of quality of life and wellbeing, sustainable livelihood pathways, social cohesion and the development of a happiness and wellbeing index.