KOTAKINABALU: The Malaysian Intellectual Property Organisation (MylPO) has identified several Sabah products that should be registered as intellectual property.

Its director general, Datuk Azizan Mohamad, said the products which were unique, of good and reputable quality could be registered under the geographical indication of intellectual property.

"Geographical indication is important in marketing the product as it is part of the branding instrument, thus giving direct effect on the agro-tourism sector,” he said, and cited Sabah Tea plantation as an example.

Azizan in his speech which was delivered by his representative Mohd Fazrul Uddin Mohd Sharuji, disclosed that other high quality products which MylPO had identified included “kerepek pisang sekaki Sabah” (foot long banana chips), “tuah Tambunan” (pickled wild ginger), “Sabah Vegie” (sayur manis), Semporna seaweed and “parang Kota Belud” among others.

"I therefore urge the relevant authorities to take proactive steps by registering these products with the domestic market as well as export potential so that local communities can enjoy the benefits,” he said at the opening of the state-level Intellectual Property Awareness Seminar at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here yesterday.

Azizan also pointed out that higher learning institutes have very important roles to play in terms of establishing a conducive intellectual eco-system towards generating creativity that can produce innovation as well as value-added inventions which will boost the country’s development agenda.

“I believe the commitment given by UMS towards creating a creative and innovative environment can be the catalyst to the country’s transformation agenda and encouraging the entrepreneurship culture among the people,” he stressed.

MylPO, he stressed, is committed towards having outreach programs in public and private higher learning institutes, schools and research centres.