KOTA KINABALU: A book launching and seminar relating to alcohol and issues surrounding it will be held at the University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Medical School, from 8.30am to 11am, on April 21.

The event, jointly organised by IOGT International, a large international NGO, the Intervention Group for Alcohol Misuse, Sabah (under the umbrella of Mercy Malaysia), UMS and the Ministry of Health is to help create awareness on alcohol related harm in Sabah.

Alcohol is ranked number three in the list of the world’s leading health hazards from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and causes 4 per cent of all deaths and 5 per cent of all disability worldwide. The Executive Director of IOGT International, Esbjorn Hornberg, will be speaking at the seminar about the role of civil society in reducing alcohol related harm.

There will also be talks from Dr Thaksaphon, the Director of Centre of Alcohol Studies, Thailand and Dr Helen Lasimbang, Chairperson of Mercy Malaysia, Sabah Chapter.

All who attend the seminar, which is free of charge, will be given copies of the books, “Alcohol and the Family,” “Alcohol and Gender” and “Alcohol and HIV.”

Anyone interested in attending can call 016-7733889 or email deidrefd@gmail.com to register. For inquiries, please contact Helen Lasimbang at 019-881 9318.