Training for response to emergencies

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) together with the Women and Children’s Hospital held the 3rd Sabah Trauma Life Support (STLS) to train doctors, medical staff and nurses here as well as from other districts on life support and emergency procedures.

The programme, according to Sabah Branch UiTM Alumni and Community Industry Network Research Deputy Rector, Dr Rozita @ Uji Mohamed, started April 22.

“We are grateful to receive invitation from the Women and Children’s Hospital to collaborate in organising the programme. I hope we will be able to cooperate in organising future events,” she added.

She also thanked the Emergency and Trauma staff of the hospital who had agreed to hold the Emergency Simulation and Disaster Training Session.

“The programme is to add on to the Emergency Response Plan as it has not been fully tried. I hope that the feedback on the session which will be presented during the closing ceremony on April 25 will be able to produce a better and realistic Emergency Response Plan,” she said.

On the other hand, State Health Department Director, Dr Christina Rundi, said that the STLS course is one of the pre-requisites prior to deployment in the Emergency Retrieval Unit (ERU).

The programme, according to her, is a dedicated highly skilled group of well-trained individuals in the field of transport and aviation medicine.

“The squad comprises an Emergency Physician, Medical Officers and Assistant Medical Officers of the Emergency and Trauma Department of the Women and Children’s Hospital,” she said.

Rundi explained that the ERU team is known as ‘The Flying Angels’ for being sent to treat patients at the hospitals in other districts.

“They were also called upon multiple times for example during the Lahad Datu incursions in 2013. They were the primary team transferring patients out to safety from Felda Sahabat in Lahad Datu,” she explained, adding that over the last three years, apart from the retrieval service, the ERU was also involved in training and research.

Earlier, in her speech she said Sabah’s topography as well as weather had been a challenge causing the journey itself to be fatal.

“With these hardships in mind, the Emergency Medicine Society of Kota Kinabalu with the expert assistance of CareFlight New South Wales and funding from the Australia Institute founded the STLS four years ago,” she said, adding that the course is specially useful in Sabah to tackle local problems faced on daily basis by healthcare providers.

“Due to the increasing need of utilising air transport, the ERU has been working closely with the Society of AeroMedicine Malaysia or SAMM. We thank SAMM for their support and their recognition of our personnel working in the field of aviation medicine,” she said.

“Although we are still in the infancy stage, I believe we have come a long way in providing this specialised service to needful Sabahans,” she said in her speech delivered by State Health Department Deputy Director (Medical), Dr Zuraidah Ahmad Babji.

She also congratulated all instructors and participants for attending the course.

“I would also like to thank UiTM for being our partners in organising this course which will benefit the people of Sabah by improving the health services as a whole,” she said, extending her grati-
tude to the Fire Services Department and Police Air Wing who had been working together with them providing well rounded training to the participants.

Among those who attended the event were Sabah Fire and Rescue Department Director Nordin Pauzi, Sabah Women and Children’s Hospital Director Dr. Tan Bee Hwai, Emergency Medicine Consultant and Chief Coordinator (Academic) Trauma and Emergency, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya Professor Dr.M.Rishya Manikam, Head Department of Emergency and Trauma and Squad Leader, Emergency Retrieval Unit, Sabah Women and Children’s Hospital Dr Cheah Phee Kheng and Course Director, Dr Darlene F Ongkili.
Rozita handing a token of appreciation to Dr Zuraidah.