

Japanese varsity students on 5-day visit

KUCHING: A group of 16 students from the College of Tourism at Rikkyo University in Tokyo, Japan were on a 5-day visit to Sarawak recently.

Their visit here was part of their curriculum to qualify for a Degree in tourism.

While in the city, they were briefed by the Director of Marketing, Sarawak Tourism Board Benedict Jimbau on the Board's marketing plan and strategies as well as activities being carried out.

The students expressed great interest on the work and activities of the Board and they were confident that efforts by the tourism office will attract the University to make a return visit to Sarawak and conclude it as part of the University's curriculum.

Led by Professor Naito Junko and Tour Planner Watabe Takao, the group also visited various places of interest outside the city including Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, an Iban longhouse as well as taking part in a re-forestation programme at Sabal Forest Reserve at the Kuching-Sri Aman Road which

drew the most attention among the visitors.

Rikkyo University is the first university in Japan to have a tourism faculty since 1946.

It started with the Hotel Management Course and have expanded to general tourism faculty of several wide-ranging courses including ethnic tourism, eco-tourism and multi-racial culture.

"Sarawak offers the best of its cultures for international students to learn about the impact that international goodwill and cultural exchange may have on the programme," said Benedict Jimbau at the conclusion of a briefing session at STB office yesterday afternoon.

The practical programme by Rikkyo University of Japan a unique course programme known as "Early Practical Experience" for first grade student of the faculty.

The programme also provides exposures and experiences for the students.

At the end of the programme, the students will be able to understand tourism from the aspects of environment and culture.



THE students posing for a photograph with Benedict Jimbau (far right) after the briefing session.