



OVER TO YOU... Cisco system Malaysia Sdn Bhd. director Johnson Khoo (left) handing over an appointment letter to Prof. Dr Zaidi Daud while Tham Nyip Shen looks on at the UMS yesterday.

Cisco and UMS set up training centre to increase IT professionals

KOTA KINABALU: Cisco Systems (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday launched the Internet Training Centres Initiative for Developing Countries (ITCI-DC) in Malaysia that would help increase the number of professionals in Information Technology (IT).

ITCI-DC was formed by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), an organisation that promotes cooperation between government and private sectors to address the acute shortage of skilled networking and IT professionals in the developing world.

In the implementation of this programme, ITCI-DC has collaborated with Cisco Systems Inc, which is one of the leaders in networking systems for Internet, to establish the Cisco Networking Academy Programme (CNAP), a well-known industry training programme in the internet protocol networking.

Under this programme, UMS will be offering a 280-hour course based on the curriculum used in the Cisco Networking Academy Programme that trains students to design, build and maintain computer networks.

UMS is the only education institution in Malaysia and one of the 12 institutions in Asia Pacific to be selected under the scheme.

Johnson Khoo, managing director of

Cisco Systems Malaysia told reporters at the launching here that UMS was chosen for this programme due to its state-of-the art facilities.

It will also be a better place to close the gap of the digital divide in IT compared to other institutions in the Klang Valley, of which the usage of IT is quite widespread.

Prof Dr Sazali Yaacob, UMS's Dean School of Engineering and Information Technology said that CNAP would be offered to the first year student of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Software Engineering, Network and System Management and Computer Engineering.

"For a start only 50 students will be offered the place to enroll in the programme which will begin by next June," he said.

Dr Sazali said the programme would be for four semesters (two years) and students would prepare for the examination for industry standard certifications including the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP).

Khoo said: "With Cisco certification, they would have a better chance to find jobs."

He said with well trained workforce in IT, the flow of investments would follow soon like in Pulau Pinang, Klang Valley and Melaka.