

UMS students in Labuan can gain from pros

By Sohan Das

LABUAN: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Labuan campus maintains a close relationship with professional bodies on the island to keep abreast with the latest developments.

The feedback from the professional bodies is also useful in students becoming aware of the latest trends and to enable them to adapt to the new prevailing conditions of working life.

"This will enable UMS to produce graduates who are not only professionals in their areas of expertise but also up-dated so that whatever they implement when they are working later would be both practical and relevant," said UMS Labuan campus Dean and Director, Prof. Madya Dr Zainal Abidin, Wednesday.

Opening the UMS-IBPM "Open Day" held at the campus, he added that UMS aspired not merely to produce graduates but graduates with top qualities.

"To achieve such target, it is important that UMS students learn from both inside and from the professional bodies outside the campus," he said.

Among the professional bodies UMS now have good relationship with are Institute Bank Bank Malaysia (IBBM), Labuan Offshore Financial Services Authority (Lofsa) and Association of Offshore Banking and Trust Companies.

All these bodies are key components to the island's

International Offshore Financial Centre (IOFC) and most relevant to the studies offered by the UMS Labuan campus.

The campus' present two schools are the International Business and Finance and Information Science.

The School of International Business and Finance offers five programmes, namely International Finance, International Banking, International Marketing, International Financial Economics and Islamic Finance.

Dr Zainal said IBBM was willing to conduct some courses for the UMS students and hoped students would benefit from these.

Director of IBBM, Dr Mohd Kamal Khir, said IBBM was the professional and educational body for banking and financial services and offered Continuing Professional Development (CPD) throughout the year in Kuala Lumpur and various other state capitals.

He said that for last year alone, 850 CPD programmes were conducted with some 21,270 participants.

The qualifications offered by IBBM serve as a route to obtaining banking qualifications from certificate to degree.

Others present and spoke on the Open Day were Iskandar from Lofsa, Paul Ong from Association of Offshore Banks and Chin Chee Kee from Association of Trust Companies.