

Lecturers able to pursue 'split PhD' soon

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PUTRAJAYA: Starting this September, lecturers from seven local public universities will be able to pursue a "split PhD" with the University of Nottingham in Britain.

A memorandum of understanding for the Malaysia-Nottingham Doctoral Programme (MNDP) was signed yesterday between the British

and Malaysian universities.

The seven local institutes are Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, International Islamic University Malaysia, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sabah and Universiti Teknologi Mara.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who wit-

nessed the signing, said the programme would contribute to the target set in the Ninth Malaysia Plan to have 60% of academic staff in public universities equipped with a PhD qualification by 2010.

He also urged the universities to consider practical ways to advance research across disciplines.

"One way to do this will be to build research clusters of scholars, bringing together both senior, established researchers and promising junior researchers from the two continents," Najib said in his speech before the signing, which was also witnessed by Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.