

UMS to set up Finishing School to boost skills of graduates

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will be offering a new course to help graduates from Public Higher Learning Institutions (IPTA) obtain additional skills they need to compete in the job market.

Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin said the new course is meant to provide IPTA graduates with the opportunity to enhance their competitiveness in pursuing a career.

For this purpose, he said, a new school known as the Finishing School will be formed at Labuan International Campus (UMSKAL), he told a press conference in conjunction with UMS Management Retreat at Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort in Tuaran yesterday.

Noh said the school is expected to commence a three-month course for its first intake of 500 students this year.

"The Finishing School will focus on helping graduates to obtain additional skills and enhance their skills in information and

communication technology (ICT), English and other languages.

"All IPTA graduates are invited to apply for the course but priority will be given to graduates from UMS. We will be using either the facilities here (main campus) or Labuan to conduct the course," he said.

Noh was confident the program would be able to raise the graduates' chances of landing a dream job and become more successful.

He said the soon-to-be-opened school is necessary given the fact that the Human Resource Ministry, due to high cost, is reducing the number of graduates undertaking additional skills courses under its post graduate program.

"Thus, we need to find a new approach in conducting additional skills courses for the graduates involved," he said.

Meanwhile, speaking at the Management Retreat, Noh said UMS is launching a "Campus Tourism" programme this year in its effort complement the Visit Malaysia Year 2007 campaign.

He said the move is in line with the University's mission to support the Government's strategies in developing the state and the country.

He said a special committee will be formed by the Corporate Relation Division to plan activities to attract both local and foreign tourists to visit UMS while visiting Sabah.

"Apart from beautifying the university's surrounding, appropriate items will be exhibited for visitors," he said.

Revealing another program which has been lined up under the University's 2007 plan, Noh said UMS will organise a number of events in conjunction with the 50th National Independence Day this year.

"We can organise a series of dialog by inviting important figures who have fought to liberate the country, writing competition and other activities which we think are appropriate in appreciating the National Independence Day. The aim is to promote awareness and appreciation of the meaningful day," he said.