

UMS helps prepare grads for jobs

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TUARAN: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is conducting a finishing school programme to prepare public institutions of higher learning graduates for employment by equipping them with the necessary skills.

The three-month programme focuses on developing additional skills among graduates especially improving their command of English, and learning Mandarin and information communication technology (ICT), said UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Mohd Noh Dalimin.

He said the programme was opened to all graduates residing in Sabah with the first batch of 500 graduates beginning their classes soon at the main campus here

and a branch campus in Labuan. Preference will be given to UMS graduates.

"We believe the programme will be able to produce students who meet the needs of the job market," he said, adding that the programme was necessary as the Human Resource Ministry was planning to scrap its graduate training programme due to high cost.

"As such we have to find another approach to conduct a course which would equip graduates with additional skills," he told a news conference after attending a UMS management dialogue here.

On the command of English among UMS lecturers, Dr Mohd Noh said he had

yet to be satisfied with their ability.

"As we are aware, they are the products of two systems - the English and Malay medium of instruction.

"At one stage, we wanted everybody to observe the national language system and UMS lecturers were then taught in Malay.

"However, those who acquired their postgraduate degrees and doctorates abroad mastered English better than lecturers who pursued higher studies locally," he said.

However, he said UMS would continue to improve the command of English among its lecturers because they were tasked with producing quality and competitive graduates.