

UMS-KYS accord on getting a degree

DE 12-09-2012 7

Jason Santos

KOTA KINABALU: Students wanting to pursue a local degree at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) may soon be able to do so at Kolej Yayasan Sabah (KYS) here with special emphasis going to Sabahans.

The move following a memorandum of understanding (MoU) inked between the two higher education institutions, Monday, will allow KYS to offer, specifically two programmes, degrees in Engineering Technology specialising in Automotive Technology and Building Construction Technology, for now.

"This collaboration will surely aid KYS in its academic development and technical programmes, especially in automotive and building construction technology.

"The best bit on this collaboration is that it will place special emphasis on local students especially, Sabahan STPM and diploma-level leavers aiming to further their studies to a degree level," said KYS Chairman Kamal Quadra.

He hoped the collaboration will allow KYS to remain relevant in the expansion, challenges, demands of national education and also bring the college to a higher level.

Quadra said in the past KYS had initiated many MoUs, like with Holland and Australia but these were not "fruitful."

"The initial idea was good but it lacked commitment because it involved a lot of money. Maybe UMS would be a logical partner," Quadra said.

However, he pointed out one collaboration had worked, that which KYS had entered with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

The new MoU will discuss the possibilities of how the two courses will be offered to students and detail its framework in a Memorandum of Agreement expected to be signed soon.

"We hope something will happen by next week. So far we are still in discussion on how the students should complete the degrees. Maybe one year at KYS and the remainder at UMS," said the Programme Coordinator Chief, Prof Madya Dr Yang Soo Siang.

He said the engineering course will take about four years while the other course will be over a three year duration.

"Should everything go well these courses will be ready for student enrollment by early next year's intake," he said.

Meanwhile, UMS Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Mohd Harun Abd said the collaboration will benefit both institutions and contribute to the State's human capital development.

"With this, it will ensure UMS and KYS will complete the need of the nation to produce competitive human capital. This is also based on the Blue Ocean Strategy, which is in line with the Government Transformation Plan," he said.

The two courses will involve UMS' School of Engineering and Information Technology and the School of Business and Economics.

According to Quadra, KYS may serve as a feeder college to UMS once the MoA is inked.



KYS: Dr Mohd Harun (third left) exchanging documents with Quadra during the MoU signing between the two higher learning institutions on offering two first degree courses.