

UMS, a first choice for further studies for many foreign students

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is one of the main choices of foreign universities from among students from China for further studies because of Sabah's pristine natural attractions and peaceful state.

Acting chief operations officer of UMS Link Holdings Sdn Bhd, Wan Mohd Azeelan

Adnan, said since the International Student Foundation Programme (ISFP) was introduced in 2003, it has attracted 880 international students including 96 new ones.

The programme was introduced specifically to help international students intending to pursue a bachelor's degree programme in UMS.

"Many of the international student alumni have secured jobs in banks, as executives, chief executive officers and

managers in government and private sectors.

"They are essentially ambassadors of UMS and proof that ISFP has been successful in producing creative and capable graduates," he said.

He was speaking at the registration of new students under the ISFP at the UMS Link Centre here yesterday when 95 students from China and one from Iraq registered to join the programme for six months.

ISFP is a preparatory course for



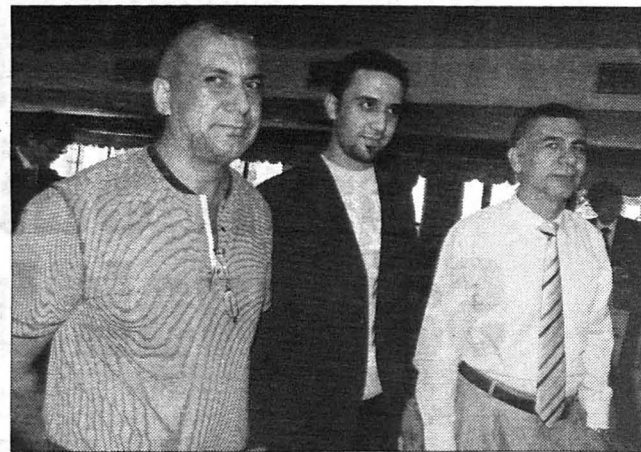
Stephen

international students and is run by the UMS Link Centre for Professional Development. It is a pre-requisite for entry into any of the degree programmes in UMS.

Most of the new students, when interviewed, were impressed by UMS and Sabah.

Stephen @ Lee Xiang, 18, from Luo Yang, China said he discovered UMS and Sabah from his older brother, a former student of the university.

"I chose UMS because my brother told me that Sabah is a beautiful place and there are many interesting places including UMS," he said.



Zaidi (centre) with his father, Kamil (left) and interpreter, Dr. Jaafar Makki.

It is his first time to Sabah and so far his favourites are the natural attractions, seafood and the beaches.

"It is so very different from my hometown, Luo Yang," said the student who will pursue a degree in Islamic Finance after completing the ISFP.

Zaidi Kamil, 22, the only student from Baghdad, Iraq said UMS was his choice because it is one of prestigious universities in the region.

"This is the first time I am out of Iraq and therefore my first time in Sabah. I feel at home here because the culture is almost like my country's and there are many Muslim students here," he said when speaking through an interpreter, Dr. Jaafar Makki, who works at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Zaidi was accompanied by his father, Kamil Hasain, and will do a degree in Biotechnology after he has finished the ISFP.