

Learning institutions which lost licences not from Sabah

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By Murib Morpi

KOTA KINABALU: The licences of seven higher learning institutions (IPTS) have been either revoked or their approval cancelled by the Higher Education Ministry for various offences in the recruitment of foreign students.

Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Hou Kok Chung said the seven higher learning institutions had breached the procedures or terms and conditions set by the ministry.

"From the 169 higher learning institutions that were allowed to enroll foreign students, the licences of seven have been withdrawn.

"This was as of July this year where we no longer allow them to enroll foreign students," he told reporters after meeting students from China at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) campus in Likas here yesterday.

Hou declined to reveal the names of the seven institutions, only saying that none of them was in Sabah.

"The interaction with and management of international students is critical in the government's effort to make the country an education hub in the region," he stressed.

As of end of August, there were 506 registered IPTS in



Hou (third right) during the press conference.

Malaysia, out of which 25 were in Sabah. From this figure, 169 have the permit to enroll foreign students.

Last year alone, 45,246 international students enrolled in Malaysia IPTS, representing about two-thirds of the total foreign students registered that year.

The country has so far attracted students from over 150 countries, with China contributing the most number of students studying at Malaysian IPTS in 2011, with 5,272 enrollees.

Indonesia has the second highest number of students in IPTS in Malaysia with 4,806 enrollees, followed by Nigeria (4,684), Iran (3,940) and Yemen (1,713).

For IPTS, Hou said there was still a lot of room for improvement in terms of attracting international students.

He noted that there were only 25,263 foreign students registered in Malaysia last year, almost half of that in the private institutions.

"IPTS provide a quota of five per cent of its intake to international students, and a lot can still be done to improve in this aspect," he said, adding that most foreign students come to Malaysia to study business.

Hou also commended UMS for its initiative to promote Malaysia as a preferred education destination among students in China through its offshore office in Beijing.

He noted UMS currently has almost 600 international students, with 496 of them from China.

Other nationals studying in UMS include those from Brunei, Turkey, Tanzania, Myanmar, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Greece and Kenya.