# UMS starting video campus concept here

**By EDDY HIEW**

KOTA KINABALU, Tues.- Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has set up a School of Engineering and Information Technology to produce graduates proficient in information technolgy.

The first intake is scheduled this year.

Assoc. Prof Dr Ithnin Bujang said today in view of space constraints, five schools would be set up at two locations - one at the Likas Bay temporary campus and the other at KM19 Jalan Tuaran.

According to him, in view of this UMS would be considering local video network within campus and video conferencing between campuses in conducting lectures if the need arises.

It would be a pioneer move in Sabah, emulating similar concepts being practised by Unversiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Malaya (UM).

The new campus would be fully equipped with communication and computing networking.

"UMS is very fortunate in doing its planning now because we are just in time for the era of information technology and the possibility of corporatising some of our business," Dr Ithnin said.

He added in his paper "Computerisation In The Education Sector" that there was also need to think of the possible risks in selecting new technologies.

He said teaching and learning strategies have evolved tremendously in the wake of the ever changing and fast-paced technologies to an extent those involved would be forced to take up calculated risks in keeping with the rapid development of information technology.

Choosing the smart software in managing library information had been considered extremely important as the library serves not only to catalogue books and others, but also computers to read CD-ROM materials as well as retrieving on-line multimedia database.

He said the library is quickly transforming itself to be borderless and virtual though not likely to replace its normal function as information centres or storehouses of information sources, especially in all forms of printed materials.

In this respect, all students would be required to be competent in using the computer as a learning tool for the courses, including library facilities.

Ithnin also disclosed that UMS had planned to set up a centre for media and distance education to serve as a one-stop service facility catering for the needs of the campus community as well as being the nerve centre for implementing distance learning programmes.

Several functional units, including multimedia, print and publishing, media resource and audio-visual service would be created with facilities to do video production, development of interactive multimedia, computer graphics and computer imaging not only for teaching-learning moduble production but also to digitise research information into the university database.

He said the unit would train academicians to develop teaching and learning materials for on-campus and distance learning students, complete with lecture facilities.

This system could perform video switching on a fully interactive, full duplex, live broadcast quality video session to a virtually unlimited number of classroom terminals as well as desktop stations.

"We are building a campus of the future incoporating the best of the push and pull technologies." he said.