

UMSKAL eyes international student market

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LABUAN: Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Labuan International Campus (Umskal) is eyeing foreign students from Asean countries, as part of its transformation efforts to give the university an international take.

Among the countries targeted are Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand, which are considered as emerging economic powers.

Umskal director Associate Prof Dr Murnizam Malik said the plan to obtain foreign student enrolment into the university was based on the increasing demand at key growing sectors of financial services and offshore finance in the countries.

He said a series of visits to the countries' embassies were made to provide details on the programmes offered in Umskal.

"Our high-level officers had briefed the embassies' officials on our programmes, and the outcome was positive," he told Bernama yesterday.

Murnizam said as part of the incentives offered, Umskal offered full scholarships to promising students.

"We are focusing on students from these countries after considering a number of Malaysian establishments in the financial and offshore finance sectors had set up branches in these countries.

The university is currently accommodating more than 2,300 foreign and Malaysian students. Students from China top the list, making up 95 per cent of the foreign students, followed by Indonesia and Brunei. - Bernama