

Unimas urged to embark on hospitality programme

KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) was yesterday asked to open a new faculty, offering hospitality programmes to produce the manpower needed by the State's tourism industry.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi made this call yesterday as he saw great potential in the State's tourism industry and greater role for the private sector.

"Tell the university to create one more faculty, maybe for degree or diploma for the hospitality industry. This is what we need," he said, emphasising the need to develop human capital at all levels.

Abdullah said this before opening the Kenyalang Interchange and witnessing the signing of an agreement between Global Upline Sdn Bhd and Starwood Asia-Pacific Hotels & Resorts Pte Ltd for the construction of a new hotel, Four Points by Sheraton.

The new 360-room hotel is located near the 'Kenyalang Interchange' at the function yesterday.

The interchange was built by Global Upline.

Abdullah said the private sector should be more active in the tourism industry, and that the government wanted greater private sector participation in it since huge investments were needed to develop it.