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Tajuk : Push for teaching hospital

# Push for teaching hospital

Varsity looking at several options for its long-awaited plan

story by  
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**KOTA SAMARAHAN:** Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) is hopeful that its long-awaited plans for a teaching hospital will materialise soon.

Vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Kadim Suaidi said the university was looking at several options for the development of the hospital.

"One option is to bring it on campus beside the main entrance, where we have a plot of land earmarked for the site," he said at the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between Unimas and Kenyalang Medical Foundation (KMF) at the campus here yesterday.

Mohd Kadim said Unimas was still fighting to get the teaching hospital, which had been proposed since 2009.

He said the university received about 200 students annually into its medical and health sciences faculty, which had a total enrolment of about 1,000 students.

"It's not only Unimas which needs this teaching hospital, Sarawak needs it too. With it, we can expand our post-graduate programme and train specialists here so that they will remain in Sarawak," he said, adding that he hoped the project would be announced soon.



Dr Sim (third from left) exchanging the signed documents with Mohd Kadim while representatives from Unimas and Kenyalang Medical Foundation look on.

KMF chairman Datuk Dr Sim Kui Hian supported Unimas' teaching hospital proposal, saying the university should work with the Health Ministry to plan ahead for the health needs of the people.

"I will continue to push for the hospital," he said.

On the MoA, Dr Sim said KMF would allocate RM50,000 for the next five years to fund scholarships and prizes to deserving students from Unimas' medical and health

sciences faculty.

The foundation will also present a new Most Outstanding Medical Student Award to a clinical-year student who excels in arts, sports or community service in addition to academic performance.

Dr Sim said the foundation had given scholarships to 15 students since 2001 as well as over 70 excellence awards since 2005.

"We want to encourage the next generation of doctors that if they

work hard, they will be recognised. I believe that you cannot go wrong if you invest in education.

"We must provide the opportunity for the next generation," he said.

KMF was founded in 2000 to promote higher education opportunities in medical and health-related courses, provide scholarships or study grants at under-graduate and post-graduate levels and promote continuous education and research in medicine.