

# Unimas to enjoy faster Internet connectivity

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By Jacob Achoi

**SAMARAHAN:** Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) inked an agreement with Telekom Malaysia Berhad (TM) to upgrade Unimas' Internet leased line capacity from the current 8Mbps to 34Mbps.

The increased capacity, effective June 1, is to meet the requirements of the 7,500 students and staff for the purpose of administration, study and research.

The signing ceremony was held at Unimas campus yesterday.

Unimas was represented by Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Abdul Rashid Abdullah and TM by TM Retail Chief Operating Officer Dato Adnan Rofiee.

Present were Unimas deputy vice chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof Dr Murtedza Makamad and TM general manager

(Internet Service Sales) Ghazali Omar.

The infrastructure upgrade will provide the university's community with its own high-speed Internet line to support network system and communications applications like e-mail and others.

Both TM and Unimas view the Internet as a critical tool for communications and information, and the partnership will benefit students, the State and country.

With the upgrade, students can do research and gather inputs from all around the world faster and more efficiently. TM has been the primary Internet service provider to Unimas since 2003 and currently provides the TMNet direct solution through a dedicated link.

Unimas was TM's first TMNet direct customer among the country's institutions of higher learning.

TM has located its wireless broadband service, TMNet hotspot, at the university's old campus bookstore. This would ensure they stay connected, and have easy and instant access to knowledge centres around the world.

Adnan said TM viewed education as an important focus, both as a commercial market for its services and as part of the country's development.

"Under the current Ninth Malaysian Plan, increased application of information and communication technology (ICT) is one of the cornerstones of the Education Development Masterplan 2006 to 2010," he said.

TM, he said, was proud of the partnership with Unimas for the establishment of a strategic plan to use ICT as a platform to pursue knowledge while producing skilled and knowledgeable graduates.



**UPGRADING CAPACITY:** Dr Abdul Rashid (left) exchanges documents with Adnan while Ghazali (right) and Dr Murtedza look on.

Adnan said TM played the part by providing secure, reliable and cost-effective Internet connectivity to schools, colleges and universities.

He added that TM's premium direct line service was most suitable for business and institutions of higher learning, which require high-bandwidth for communications, research, multimedia applications, hosting heavy-duty service and high numbers of user connections.

According to him, TMNet direct services provide 24-hour access, guaranteed speeds and high security Internet connectivity, extensive monitoring and support services.

Dr Abdul Rashid said Unimas had always maintained a strong commitment to technology and been awarded the Multimedia Super Corridor status for institutions of higher learning.

He stressed that Unimas was

committed to producing quality graduates who were knowledgeable in their field of study and possess the skills needed to excel in the present global economy.

Therefore it was crucial that Unimas be capable of providing a reliable and consistent Internet connectivity to students as a tool for study and research, he said, adding that the agreement with TM was timely.