



COMING ICT EXPO: Murtedza (second left) accepts the expo's official telco signage from Choo as Johari (left) and Tan look on.

## Unimas to hold ICT expo at campus

15.3 Wed/16.1.08

**KUCHING:** Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) will hold an IT Expo, Unite'08, at the Campus Hall and Experimental Theatre here from Feb 29 to March 2.

The exhibition to be held from 11am to 9pm during the period, will bring the latest ICT products to members of the public especially students, showcasing the leading brands in information, communication and multimedia technology available in today's market.

Unite'08 is organised by Unimas Faculty of Computer Science and IT (FCSIT) and Centre for Information and Communication Technology Services (CICTS) in collaboration with IDA Exhibition Services Sdn Bhd and Celcom (Malaysia) Berhad.

In announcing the expo at the campus yesterday, Unimas Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof Murtedza Mohamed who said the expo was relevant and timely for the university as an institution as well as its staff and students.

He said it demonstrated the recent achievements of the staff and students of the faculty in research, development and innovation, exposed students and staff to ICT facilities and services to support their

teaching-learning and research and development activities besides bringing a wide range of ICT hardware and software to the university's door step.

Murtedza added that the expo, themed 'Multiple Choices', also complemented the university's endeavour to promote awareness and wider use of ICT as a tool for learning and teaching.

He said Unimas used to be the 'best wired' campus in the country but rapid growth of the campus population and online services had not been complemented by adequate funding, leading to less than satisfactory ICT services in the last few years. However, the CICTS team had worked to overcome much of the problems by upgrading the campus' operating bandwidth, installing broadband wireless system and providing nearly 1,000 more PCs for the labs, he said.

Murtedza said with the call of globalisation and k-society, ICT now was a requisite and no longer a luxury in the daily life. As an educational institution operating in a new millennium, these institutions like Unimas were now known as 'new millennium' educators and learner, he said.

He pointed out that E-learning

practitioners could be categorised into three groups: digital natives who were the youth of today who were conversant with ICT, digital immigrants who were older generations beginning to get acquainted with ICT and the digital aliens who were simply computer illiterates.

Earlier, Dean of Unimas FCSIT Johari Abdullah said that expo was expected to have more than 20,000 visitors given that the campus itself has 7,000 students and a staff of 1,000.

Johari said it was rather unfortunate to learn from the industry players that there was still a shortage in the IT workforce and he hoped the expo would be able to attract more to take up courses at FCSIT.

He said the expo would also include seminars and talks to provide general knowledge on ICT by speakers from IT giants like Microsoft and Novell.

Meanwhile, Allen Tan from IDA Exhibition Services said that the exhibition area would be 12,000sq ft with over 40 sales booths and it would make use of the experimental theatre at the campus for technical hardware and software workshops, ICT seminars and latest 3G products introductions. Also present at the function was Celcom Sarawak general manager Choo Meng Chung.