

Unimas to introduce new programmes

University also to take in at least 100 China students to study full-time next year: Vice-chancellor

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By **Raynore Mering**

KOTA SAMARAHAN: Major developments including the introduction of new programmes and intake of foreign students are in the pipeline for Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

Vice-chancellor, Prof Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid said for the coming academic session, the engineering faculty had been given approval to offer the bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

He added that they were preparing to introduce a tourism programme as well as a basic science

programme for Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) holders, soon.

On top of that, he said Unimas was collaborating with Universiti Nong Lam of Vietnam to offer bachelor's degrees in biotechnology and information technology next year.

"At the same time, we are finalising the intake of at least 100 China students to study full-time next year," said Khairuddin at the first session of Unimas' 12th convocation here yesterday.

He pointed out that the university, which opened its doors in 1992, now had eight faculties, three research

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Prof Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid, Unimas vice-chancellor

institutes, four research excellence centres, a language studies centre and an academic strength of 550 people.

He said Unimas was offering 33 bachelor's degree programmes, six master's degree courses and more than 150 fields of research at the master's degree and PhD levels.

In this respect, in the past 15 years, Unimas had received numerous accolades and so far it has carried out 700 research projects using grants amounting to RM100 million, he said.

"Unimas researchers have forged active partnerships with 50 organisations, including

universities, research institutes and the industries, both domestic and foreign," he said.

Similarly, he said, Unimas was prepared to assist the state and federal governments to carry out academic and research activities as well as provide consultation.

On the university's new campus or West Campus, Khairuddin said several projects would be implemented under the Ninth Malaysia Plan including the construction of the main hall, sports complex, Islamic Centre and buildings for the medical and health science,

economics and commerce, and social science faculties.

Some 320 graduates, including seven PhD graduates, yesterday received their scrolls from the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Datuk Patinggi Abang Muhammad Salahuddin, who is Unimas chancellor. In congratulating the graduates, Salahuddin urged them to continue upgrading themselves in line with the demands and challenges of the world today.

"We cannot be complacent and get left behind. The future of the nation rests on your shoulders. The degrees that you receive today does

not mark the end of your struggle. It is the beginning of a new struggle to improve yourself, your family and country," he said.

He also reminded them to always uphold the good name of their family and country in whatever they do. Salahuddin yesterday also presented academic awards to seven graduates.

The Unimas convocation this year is divided into five sessions until Wednesday. Chief Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, the Unimas Pro-Chancellor, will present the scrolls to the graduates today. A total of 1,591 students are graduating.