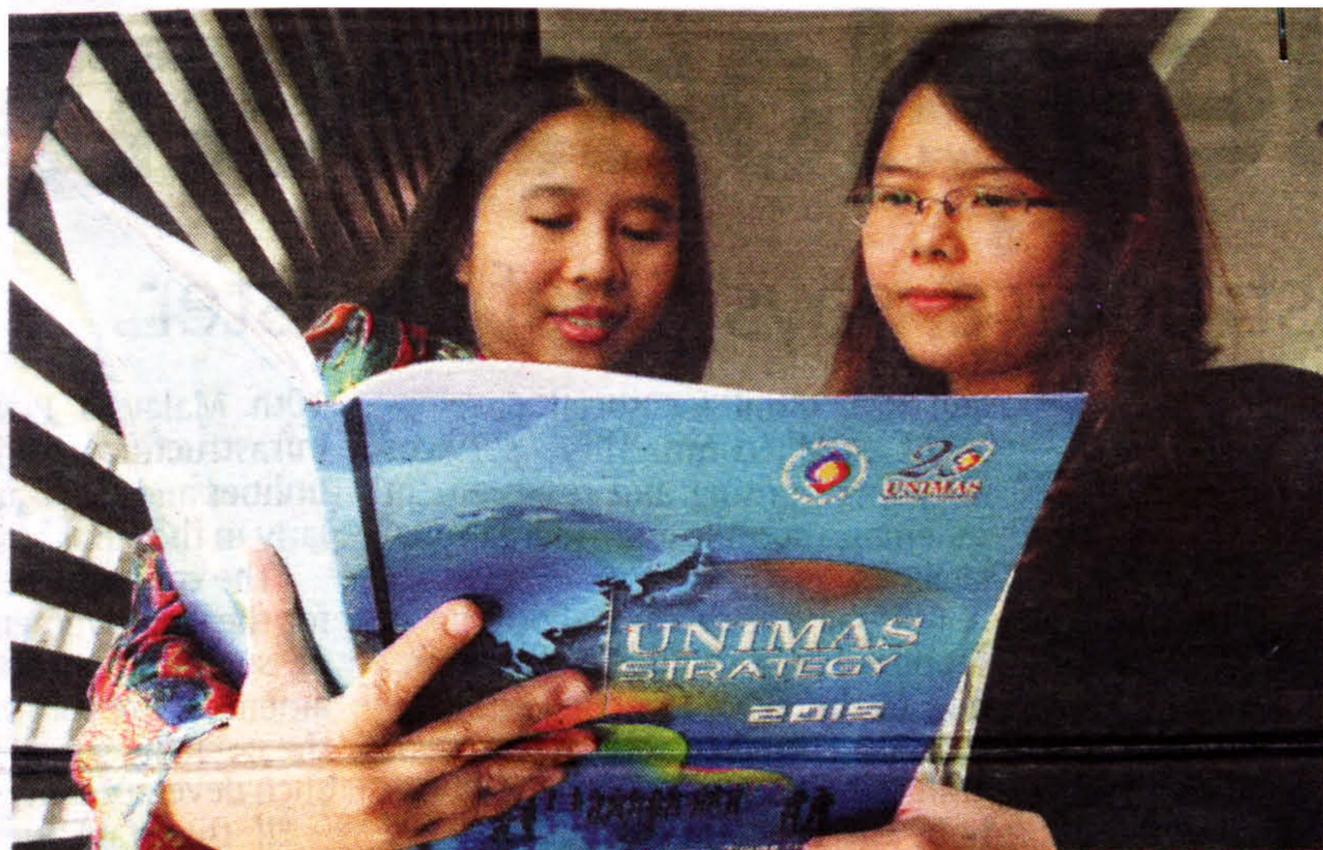


Strategic planning:
Unimas Corporate Communications Unit staff Dayangku Zyzy Cemylya and Lau Yat Ling (right) browsing through the Unimas Strategy 2015 book after it was launched yesterday.



Set own goals, chart own path

Public universities encouraged to decide future betterment on their own without Government help

By ZORA CHAN
zora@thestar.com.my

SAMARAHAN: Public universities have been asked to manage themselves and determine their future goals rather than wait for the Government to decide their course.

Deputy Higher Learning Education Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah said universities should have their own governance framework that involved the teaching and non-teaching staff, associations and students in achieving their objectives and targets.

"By all means, universities should tell the Government where we have gone wrong and decide how we should help steer your institutions towards betterment.

"Public universities can't just wait and let Putrajaya decide all the time," he said.

Therefore, it was alright for universities to have different styles and approaches in their management and delivery system for as long as these worked well for all, he said when launching Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's (Unimas) Strategy 2015 book here yesterday.

Saifuddin said universities should also use the governance framework to find and further develop their respective niche areas.

"If a university requires its lecturers to publish more books than journals, or it requires more field studies by its students, then consult and decide on your own what works best for your institutions through the governance

framework," he said.

He congratulated Unimas for having the initiative to be different from other public universities and launching its own strategic plan in line with the National Higher Education Strategic Plan (PSPTN) 2011-2015.

Earlier, Unimas vice chancellor Professor Dr. Khairuddin Ab Hamid said the book was launched as part of the university's 20th anniversary celebration this year.

"The objective of the book is to share with stakeholders and customers Unimas' strategy towards 2015.

"It is also our response to the second phase of PSPTN with the theme, Strengthening and Enhancement, which is from 2010 to 2015," he said.

According to him, one of the unique features of Unimas Strategy 2015 is its adaptation of a bottom-up concept in implementation which would see faculties, institutes, centres and divisions forming the most important element in developing the various action plans.

Among other things, he said, under the strategy, several projects had been laid out to achieve Unimas' key performance index such as achieving MS ISO certifications, reducing financial dependence on government and increasing student population up to 15,000 by 2015.

He hoped that with the launching and implementation of Unimas Strategy 2015, the university would increase its performance and change its landscape into a university of excellence.