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**JATI KASUMA: Happy each student gets own room**

## Academics can rely on CALM backing

CALM — or Centre for Applied Learning and Multimedia at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak — is a centre that supports the Unimas academic community in remedial education and development of information technology skills through specific in-house Academic Staff Development Programmes.

Among its many roles, CALM also seeks to develop innovations in educational technology that enhance the teaching and learning process, besides devising quality assurance procedures in teaching.

The centre provides technical and advisory services in instructional design and courseware development.

"Our priority is research and development in human factors of computer-based learning, instructional media, and evaluation," said Dr Halimahtun Mohamed Khalid, head of the centre.

CALM houses multimedia facilities including computer, tele and video conferencing to support distance learning, an image bank, as well as graphics and printing studios to support educational resource production.

Touching on the centre's role, Unimas Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Zawawi Ismail said the need for people well versed in ergonomics is now greater than ever.

Ergonomics, which is concerned with design of products, tasks, systems and environments, is concerned with "the best fit between humans and machines", he said.

In this respect the approach taken should be mul-

tidisciplinary. "The days of the single discipline are over," he said.

Unimas, said Zawawi, seeks to respond to the global scenario and at the same time to dictate change.

By being at the forefront of research into more systematic approaches towards product design and user-oriented information systems, he concluded, the university can play its role in the nation's industrial advancement in a practical and innovative way.

Halimahtun added that ergonomic research at CALM is run on three broad tracks: cognitive ergonomics involving computer and information technology; industrial and safety ergonomics geared towards industrial and occupational health; and consumer ergonomics which would comprise product design and service.

CALM will soon be offering modular courses for those in industry.

"These modular courses will enable working people to attend in their own time, with as little disruption to their careers as possible," said Halimahtun.

In line with the university's broad curricular concept of "meeting the changing nature of market and career needs", these courses are meant to help participants solve existing problems in the work environment.

"CALM is also going to launch short courses tailored to the needs of those in industry. We are doing a market survey to find out what industry needs," said Halimahtun.

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