



Unimas to lure top students for doctorates

By Zora Chan

SAMARAHAN: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) expects to attract more top students to take up its Masters and Doctorate programmes following its newly introduced Postgraduate Fellowship scheme.

The scheme which begins at its 2003/2004 academic year, is to provide scholarships to local students pursuing Masters and PhD by way of research in various fields of specialisation, said Unimas' Centre for Graduate Studies dean, Professor Dr Mohd Azib Salleh at a media briefing here yesterday.

"Recipients will get monthly stipends of RM1,600 for PhD and RM1,400 for Masters. Ten PhD and 20 Masters fellowships will be

offered each year and a special panel will be doing all the selection of recipients.

"Application for this year's fellowship is now open and interested graduates can obtain the forms from the Centre for Graduate Studies," he said, adding that graduates from other local universities were also eligible to apply.

To date, Dr Azib said, Unimas had about 340 postgraduate students, including 40 PhD candidates, or nearly seven percent of the total student enrolment.

He explained that the university's Masters programmes were offered in the coursework programmes and the remainder were doing research and thesis.

"Five course-work-based Masters programmes are currently being offered namely Corporate Masters

in Business Administration, Masters of Science in Human Resource Development, Masters of Advanced Information Technology, Masters of Environmental Studies in Land Use and Water Resource Management and Masters of Environmental Management," he elaborated.

Dr Azib pointed out that Unimas' postgraduate programmes were also attracting a small number of foreign students from Indonesia (six), and one each from Japan, Pakistan, Thailand and United Kingdom.

Presently, five Vietnamese students were conducting their research projects at Unimas, he added.

He also said that to date, 313 postgraduate students, consisting of 310 Masters and three Doctorates had graduated from Unimas.