



**STUDENTS-CENTRIC:** There are a host of exciting facilities available for students at Unimas, including the man-made lake for water-related activities, a six-lane bowling alley, a mini sports stadium, an Olympic-size swimming pool and gymnasiums.

# Moving forward with Unimas

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**AFTER** almost 20 years since its establishment, the best way to describe University Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) is that it is still on a learning curve.

It continues striving to become a home-grown university with the best home away from home learning experience for students.

Such an aspiration is good news to parents who know they can rely on Unimas for their children's tertiary education and the next level of life's learning process.

Unimas vice chancellor (VC), Professor Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid firmly believes in Sarawak's unrivalled hospitality and warmth in welcoming new intakes.

"We are very particular about how we receive students and their parents when they come to Unimas for the first time.

I will personally meet and talk

to them just to find out why they have chosen to study with us," said the soft-spoken Dr Khairuddin on the importance of creating a positive first impression.

"For the parents and students to feel proud of the university, we must deliver certain things — first and foremost, we must make Unimas just like their second home," he added.

According to him, Unimas fully understands what parents look for before they decide which tertiary institution to send their children to for degree courses.

Apart from providing a safe and conducive learning environment, Unimas has invested millions to provide an almost hotel-like accommodation for the students' home away from home experience.

Parents are assured their children will be in good hands because once their basic accommodation needs are taken

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care of, they can focus on their studies. In Unimas, the students come first.

"We are aiming for total development of the individual — meaning we try to help our students become good in academics but also with the attributes of a good citizen," Dr Khairuddin explained.

"Moreover, we try to educate our students to be thinking people and we always challenge them. They are free to express their opinions and criticisms."

In fact, the university is encouraging the students to organise and conduct their own activities because this promotes interaction with their peers from various races and backgrounds. At the same time, the students

are encouraged to do community work in the remote areas to inculcate in them the spirit of volunteerism and caring.

"We encourage them to engage local and international NGOs because such interaction will make them better understand the challenges faced by the community they will be working with in the future," Dr Khairuddin said.

"There is no limit — we encourage them to come up with new ideas and activities," he said of the weekly students' activities, including battle of the bands, cultural performances, speakers' corner, sports and games and even recreational activities in the campus' man-made lake.



**COMMON TOUCH:** Vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid firmly personally welcomes new students and their parents to the university.