

A proud day for 1,238 Unimas graduates



ULTRA-MODERN: Bird's eye view of the West campus.

THIS weekend, 1,238 graduates and postgraduates of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) will be up exceptionally early and make their way to the Dewan Unimas-proud day in the East Campus of the university in Kota Samarahan.

It will be a proud moment for each of them when later in the day they step proudly on stage and receive their degrees, the fruit of their years of hard work in Malaysia's eighth and Sarawak's first public university.

The academic year past and this new academic year are both exceptional for Unimas for some very good reasons.

First of all, the University now has two campuses - the original cosy, and picturesque complex now renamed the East Campus and the spanking new and ultra-modern, multi-million ringgit West Campus a couple of kilometres down the road.

Secondly, there are six who will be receiving their PhDs, the biggest number of doctorates ever in a single academic year since the university started offering this postgraduate degree.

Also graduating will be 91 with Masters degree, while the rest from eight faculties will receive their Bachelor's degree.

The Faculty of Cognitive Science and Human Development tops the list with 254 graduates, Faculty of Economics and Business (168), Faculty of Engineering (155), Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (115), Faculty of Science and Resource Technology (156), Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (75), Faculty of Social Science (115) and Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts will have 103 graduates.

The total number of Unimas graduates is relatively modest when compared to the number of graduates from some other more established Malaysian public universities.

However, it is still a far cry from the 153 who made up the inaugural batch of Unimas graduates almost a decade ago.

In the last 13 years Unimas has grown almost beyond recognition and the initial two faculties have now been joined by six other faculties and several centres and institutes.

From the initial intake of 118 students in two pioneering faculties, today there are almost 6,000 students pursuing various courses in eight faculties.

The university has an ultra-modern library, popularly referred to as CAIS (Centre for Academic Information Services) which holds over 150,000 volumes of books, an array of over 8,000 sets of media materials and a collection of both electronic and print journals numbering an estimated 20,000.

Also, befitting its status as a seat of higher learning and a centre of research, the university boasts of a total of over 500 research works and the number is still growing.

Beyond the boundaries of the lecture theatres and tutorial rooms, Unimas students come out in full force to display their work and commitment.

Exhibitions showcasing students' work of arts and creativity have become an annual affair drawing interest from both far and near.

Open days during the convocation fest held annually provide an avenue for students to display their efforts and innovations throughout the year.

Added to these are the occasional theatrical presentations for students to display their creative talents and skills.