

Maintaining physical and mental comfort

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THE Students' Health Centre at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) was recently awarded the ISO 9001: 2000 certification for providing improved medical facilities and health services for student activities.

"We obtained the certification as a single centre on July 13 for our provision of dental and health services to staff and students at UPM after a 17-month preparation," said Dr Dasrilayah Syahrial, senior dentist at the centre.

"The committee from the centre went to other UPM faculties which had attained the certification to study the required procedures and we believe we are the first centre at a university to be awarded the certification.

"This means providing quality services and being committed to improving quality and efficiency," he said.

The Veterinary Faculty at UPM had obtained the certification in 1999, followed by the Engineering Faculty in 2001, the Science Faculty in 2003 and the Agriculture



Faculty in May. Last year, UPM's first service centre to obtain the ISO 9001: 2000 certification was the Security Department.

Dr Yahaya Abu Ahmad, director at the Students' Health Centre, said: "Eighty per cent of drugs dispensed are ailment-specific original drugs and not generic drugs. We provide the best medicine to our staff and students to speed up their recovery, thereby enabling them to achieve academic goals more efficiently.

"UPM as a whole is striving towards the achievement of ISO 9001: 2000 by 2005," he added.

The university also aims to produce psychologically well-adjusted graduates to enhance Malaysia's ability to



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: UPM students performing a dance.

compete globally.

A student counsellor said: "We provide web-based counselling at e-Bika, which was launched last year and four rotating on-line counsellors provide support for students with emotional problems.

"Our counselling clinic for person-to-person encounters was launched on July 14 and we started our Outreach programme on June 24 to help students at 14 residential colleges."

Associate Professor Dr Azali Mohamed, UPM's

deputy vice chancellor (Student Affairs), said: "The Student Affairs Division (HEP) ensures that students are not only academically able but also socially and culturally sound. Through eight centres and with over 80 staff members, HEP aids,

shapes and co-ordinates student life at the university to prepare them for life after graduation," he added.

The centres involved are Students' Health Centre, Islamic Centre, Career and Alumni Services Centre, the Culture and Arts Centre, Housing Division, Reserve Officers' Training Unit (Rotu) and HEP centres at the main campus in Serdang and the Bintulu campus in Sarawak.

He said: "These centres cater to students' physical and mental comfort and enhance their personal development."

Activities are guided by the need to maintain and coordinate discipline among students in accordance with university regulations and government laws.

Student activities are also guided by the need to maintain a transparent and good relationship between the HEP and the elected 45-member Students Council.

Meanwhile, assistant registrar for welfare at the Student Affairs Division Mohd Zaliridzal Zakaria said UPM has two kinds of co-curricular activities.

For details, log on to: www.upm.edu.my