

Yes to more teachers

BY JAMIE KHOO

THE Education Ministry has signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with seven local universities for the Bachelor of Education (Teaching English as a Second Language) programme.

The memorandum was signed by secretary-general Datuk Ambrin Buang and representatives from Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Malaya, International Islamic University Malaysia, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Mara. The Ministry has also entered into partnerships with several overseas universities to deliver a similar programme.

Through the collaboration, which began in 2002 and will continue until 2011, these universities will produce English teachers for the Ministry. About 500 students are selected for the programme every year; 375 students undergo the local link programme and 125, the overseas link programme.

The five foreign partner universities are: College of St Mark and St John/Exeter University, United Kingdom; Queensland University of Technology, Australia; Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand; University of Auckland, New Zealand; and Macquarie University, Australia. The Ministry signed a MoA with them in 2002.



SIGNED: Ambrin (far left), Abdul Rafie (third from left) and representatives from universities at the ceremony.

Students begin the programme with a 60-week foundation course at teacher training colleges under the Teacher Education Division, after which successful candidates will go on to pursue a four-year programme.

They will spend two years in the teaching colleges and two years in the respective partner universities

either on a 1+2+1 or 2+2 scheme.

"The ministry has embarked on this programme with the aim of increasing the number of qualified English language teachers in primary and secondary schools and to replace experienced teachers who have retired from government service," explained Ambrin at the signing.

The first batch of students who

entered the programme in 2002 has already completed the foundation course and will be starting the degree programme with the local partner universities in the next few weeks.

Also present was Education director-general Tan Sri Abdul Rafie Mahat and representatives from the foreign universities.

EIGHT students of Cima (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) received awards for being in the top 10 positions worldwide in the examinations held in 2003.

The recipients were Wong Yim Fun, Wong Choy Foong, H'ng Li Seng, Ng Kok Hoe, Norhajar bt Ahmad, Mohammad Zuhri, Gulzat Okunova and Donrudee Suwirachwitayakit.

They obtained excellent results

Cima students shine

for various papers such as Financial Accounting (International Standards), Financial Reporting (International Standards), Management Accounting - Performance Management, Business Taxation and Economics for Business.

The awards were presented dur-

ing the recent certificate presentation ceremony for Cima students who had successfully completed the final level of the examinations.

A total of 160 students and their families attended the ceremony held at a hotel in Petaling Jaya. In his speech during the ceremony, Cima Malaysia divisional president,

Datuk Lee Ow Kim, urged the students to aim for success in life.

"The most admirable people are those who do ordinary jobs in an extraordinary way. And remember, as professionals-to-be, always abide by the Ethical Guidelines of the Institute. We have seen so many companies failing when their directors and executives lose sight of integrity and become victims of greed. Honesty is indeed the best policy," he said.