

# Anniversary celebrations launched

BY KAREN CHAPMAN

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia (UPM) hopes to generate 20% of its own income by the year 2010.

Its new vice-chancellor Prof Dr Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah said the university, which is subsidised by the government, wants to start generating some of its own income.

"UPM has already commercialised 33 products from its research and development - this contributes to 12% of our university income at present.

"We want to be able to do more as the Government now has to support 18 public universities," he told reporters after announcing that the university will be celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

The anniversary celebrations will be officially launched on May 23 by UPM's chancellor, Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

The university, which started as a School of Agriculture in 1931, was upgraded to college status in 1947.

Realising the need to develop the



Prof Nik Mustapha is UPM's new vice-chancellor.

country's agricultural sector, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (later renamed as Universiti Putra Malaysia) was set up in 1971 following the merger of the College of Agriculture and Universiti Malaya's Agricultural Faculty.

"We must continue to grow till UPM achieves world-class university status," said Prof Nik Mustapha.

Various programmes have been planned for the anniversary celebra-

tions. The university has invited Prof Dr Peter C Agre - who won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2003 - to speak at the celebrations, while a clock tower, estimated to cost RM1mil, will be built on the campus, near the administrative building.

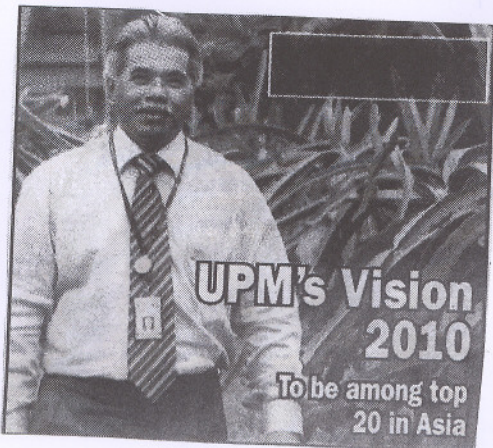
"We hope to have the ground breaking ceremony during the official launch," added Prof Nik Mustapha.

"Tiles will be sold to the public. Students will pay RM75 for each tile to be placed on the clock tower while staff members and alumni will pay RM175 and corporate sponsors RM1,075."

On his appointment as the new vice-chancellor of UPM, Prof Nik Mustapha said he was on "cloud nine" when he first heard the news.

"I will continue with the policies of my predecessor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Zohadie Bardaie.

"I was previously the deputy vice-chancellor (Development) so my learning curve should be quite short," he said. His appointment runs from Jan 1, 2006 to Dec 31, 2008.



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