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Supporting student sportsmen

A SPORTS development policy will be drawn up to encourage the participation of university students in sports.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said a workshop would be held in June to look into details, such as the welfare of student athletes.

"We don't want the student athletes to have to choose between continuing their participation in sports or their studies (at university level) as they should be able to do both," he told reporters after chairing an Asean University Games meeting.

A working paper on the policy, he added, had already been prepared but there was a need to further refine it.

"We also need to meet with the universities as once it is completed, they can use the

policy as a guide."

He also announced that seven student athletes from Universiti Putra Malaysia had qualified to compete in the Beijing Olympics.

They are Roslinda Samsu (pole vault), Chew Chee Chan (taekwondo), Elaine Teoh Shueh Fern (taekwondo), Cheng Chu Sian (archery), Wan Mohd Khalmizan Wan Abd Aziz (archery), Leong Mun Yee (diving) and Rosharisham Roslan (diving).

On the Asean University Games, Mohamed Khaled said Malaysia would be hosting the games in Kuala Lumpur from Dec 11 to 21.

Athletes from Asean universities would be able to participate in 21 events including football, rugby, athletics, archery, netball, golf and volleyball, with 207 gold medals up for grabs. - **By KAREN CHAPMAN**