Forging pacts for services

Healthcare launches series of partnerships with local universities

B P HEALTHCARE Group has launched a series of smart partnerships with local universities for students to gain invaluable practical experience and to jointly develop products and services.

The private healthcare provider signed a memoranda of understanding with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia in the audiology and radiology fields respectively.

With Universiti Putra Malaysia in the field of food testing while a fourth with another institution, to be announced soon, on dental.

"We believe it is part of our responsibility to help the next generation to improve their knowledge and gain experience in healthcare. By doing this, we are helping to get them ready for the job market," said BP Healthcare deputy chairman Chevy Beh.

To add better value to the partnerships, associate professors of the respective fields would be allowed to practise in BP centres and joint research and development would be undertaken to create and commercialise new

 products and services.

> The facilitation of training and sharing of experience is also part of it's corporate social responsibility agenda to

improve and maintain the health of the community, said Beh. who is also the Group's Finance and Investment director.

The universities were carefully selected based on their academic and research strength in the



Wide range: A file pix of some of the healthcheck kits and products by BP Healthcare Group.

fields stated.

'We are opening our facilities with expensive state-of-the-art equipment to the universities, We expect 10 to 20 students from each university to intern with us and they will be supervised by our specialists," Beh said.

BP Healthcare has 50 hearing aids centres, three dental specialist clinics and has the largest food and environment testing chain in the country with 50 outlets.

It is the largest radiology provider with services available at 50 diagnostics and four specialist centres.

The recently announced an investment of RM100mil to set up the biggest dental care network in the country with 50 outlets within the next five years to complement the Group's overall progress on health and wellness.

Its three dental specialist clinics that provide comprehensive maintenance, restorative and cosmetic dental care that includes orthodontics and

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-CHEVY BEH

implants are located in Glenmarie, Ipoh and Klang.

From a clinical laboratory started in 1982, the company has grown to become South-East Asia's largest medical diagnostic chain with over 100 outlets in Malaysia and a joint venture in Indonesia with the well-known Ciputra Group.

The network has expanded to 70 laboratories and 50 pharmacies and dispensaries.

Its other healthcare services include ENT (ear, nose and throat), gastroscopy and nutrition centres as well as wholesale and online pharmacy.

Signed pact: Beh (middle) shaking hands with Universiti Sains Malavsia vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Omar Osman after signing the MoU. With them are (from left) USM School of **Computer Science** dean Prof Dr Rosni Abdullah, BP Healthcare Group chairman Datuk Beh Chun Chuan and radiologist Dr Lim Aik Boon.

