



From left, Dr Bujang, Prof Fauzi, Prof Sothi and Muhammad Hudhaifa at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Nilai U and Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Nilai U and UPM collaborate

NILAI University (Nilai U) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for academic collaboration.

The MoU will allow arrangements for the conferment of dual and double awards by both institutions.

The first such arrangement is for a Master's in Agricultural Management.

Students who complete a Master's programme in one university may opt to complete additional modules at the other university to obtain a second Master's award.

Nilai University will draw on the expertise of its current Biotechnology department and Business faculty as well as that of its shareholder, Felda Global Ventures (FGV) Holdings Berhad, to develop the Master of Business Administration in Tropical Plant Management programme.

The agreement will also see both institutions working closely in areas such as student exchange, internship, research and academic attachments.

The MoU was signed by UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Fauzi Ramlan and Nilai U vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Sothi Rachagan.

It was witnessed by Nilai U Council member and head of Group Corporate Strategy Planning of FGV Muhammad Hudhaifa Ahmad and the Dean of UPM School of Graduate Studies Prof Dr Bujang K Huat.

According to Prof Sothi, the MoU was a culmination of years of working closely with UPM.

He highlighted the crucial role played by UPM's then Graduate School of Management in helping Nilai U develop its Bachelor and

Master of Business Administration programmes.

Prof Sothi also thanked Prof Fauzi for his generous support for student development programmes organised by Nilai U, including the Future Leaders Camp, 1World Culture and Youth Empowerment Symposium held each year.

Prof Fauzi hoped the MoU would encourage greater co-operation between private and public institutions.

"Under research and development, we are working on the National Blue Ocean Strategy," he said.

"We are looking to have more (academic) papers to be jointly published and we are also looking forward to working closely in the field of hospitality.

"Primarily, our focus now is in the area of agriculture," he added.

Nilai U is jointly owned by Nilai Resources Group and FGV.

The association with Felda and FGV saw the development of a Diploma in Agricultural Management for the benefit of Felda staff and scholars.

The MBA in Tropical Plantation Management will be geared towards meeting the needs of Felda scholars.

Having been established in 1997 in response to the Government's call to turn the country into a regional education hub, Nilai U has been successfully cultivating programmes in niche areas such as aircraft maintenance engineering and agricultural management.

■ For more information, visit www.nilai.edu.my or call 06-850 2308 / 07-226 2336.