

National policy on online courses

FLEXIBLE LEARNING: Malaysia to be first country to develop credit transfer plan and recognition

FAIRUZ MOHD SHAHAR

PUTRAJAYA

news@nst.com.my

MALAYSIA will soon be the first country in the world to develop a national policy on credit transfer and recognition for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said the ministry

planned to award credit through MOOCs to encourage flexible learning among students.

"MOOCs have been implemented around the world for years but no credit is awarded after students complete their course.

"Through our initiative, students can pursue their studies online for free and be given a credit recognition.

"Students can enjoy flexible learning in local and universities abroad registered under MOOCs.

"The credit is transferable to enable students to receive certificate, diploma and bachelor's degrees."

He said the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) had been given the mandate to implement MOOCs plus credit recognition and transfer initiative, which would enable all MOOCs courses from Malaysia and abroad to be registered

in Malaysia's MOOC platform.

"This policy will become the main policy in the country.

"The platform is expected to be open for registration in April and certain courses will be available, depending on the readiness of lecturers.

"The credit recognition for online courses is to reduce the duplication of learning and recognise the lessons and experiences gained outside the conventional classroom," he said after delivering his New Year 2016 address at the ministry here yesterday.

MOOCs is a learning and teaching method via web where students can access the subjects anywhere and anytime through the www.openlearning.com/Malaysianmoocs website.

MQA is developing the MOOC

credit transfer policy and guidelines through a committee led by Professor Datuk Dr Mohamed Amin Embi from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.



Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh

The guidelines are expected to be concluded by June as the ministry needs to get feedback from higher education institutes before they are implemented.

Idris said under the flexible learning programme, MQA would expand the implementation of the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning programme to allow students to transfer credits based on

their working experience and allow them to choose a flexible study duration.

Idris said Universiti Malaysia Kelantan and Universiti Putra

Malaysia would offer programmes for working individuals called 2 Universiti+2 Industri (2U2I) this year.

Kolej Komuniti will lead the construction of low-cost houses using composite technology, which will cost RM20,000.

"The pilot project of 50 housing units will be built in Besut, Terengganu.

"Sites have been identified and foundation work will begin soon," Idris said, adding that the construction of the Industrialised Building System was expected to take two weeks.

He said Asean students could pursue full-time studies at three polytechnics in Ipoh, Perak, Shah Alam, Selangor, and Johor Baru, Johor, starting this year.

"The polytechnics target the enrolment of 200 international students by 2020."