

M'sia-Italy maths centre

The Italian government, in acknowledging the importance of mathematical sciences and its need for such a centre in this region, has given endorsement to launch the Malaysia-Italy Centre for Excellence (MICEMS) at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). The inauguration was represented by the Ambassador of Italy to Malaysia Mario Sammartino and Higher Education Deputy Minister Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching.

The centre will be led by the Institute for Mathematical Research (Inspem) in UPM and the Department of Mathematical Sciences "Giuseppe Luigi Lagrange" in Politecnico di Torino (Polito), Italy. Polito, founded in 1859, is the oldest technical university in Italy and is well-known for its wide range of research alliances with industries throughout the world.

Inspem-UPM was established in 2002 and has been awarded the status of Emerging Regional Centre of Excellence (EMS-Erce) by European Mathematical Society (EMS).

MICEMS is the first of its kind in South-east Asia and would focus on research and



The Ambassador of Italy to Malaysia Mario Sammartino (second from left) presenting the **MICEMS endorsement** to Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching. Looking on are UPM's Vice-Chancellor Datin Paduka Prof Dr Aini Ideris (right) and Prof Lamberto Rondoni of Politecnico di Torino.

development in mathematical sciences. Apart from that, the institute would also look at its applications in industries and societies, for example, in cryptography, biomedical sciences and complex systems.

This collaboration between the Ital-

ian and Malaysian academic communities confirms its great potential and will further strengthen bilateral relations in strategic fields. This project also embraces the Malaysia Education Blueprint and the country's aspiration to be a regional hub in education and research.