

Plans for multiple modes of education

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While profits from the enterprise would go to individual operators, the park management should ensure that profits are re-invested in the park in the form of enhanced facilities and programmes, thus keeping the operating cost down.

Wan Sulaiman said the parks could provide multiple modes of education and training, adding that the concept has enormous potential to meet the country's pressing education and training needs.

Education Ministry deputy director-general of the private education department Sri Nusa Ahmad Thaharuddin, meanwhile, said there is room for more private colleges, which would benefit students.

"The government alone cannot fulfil the educational needs of our students. The ministry's role is regulatory and not that of an enforcement body. We must find the right courses that are in demand."

He added that there is no more room for private colleges which offer courses such as business and accounting, as many colleges are already offering them.

"Very few students apply for technology-based courses and a very small



SRI NUSA: Few apply for technology courses



TAN: No compromise on quality

percentage of these technology-oriented students take up tertiary study."

One of the challenges to private colleges is provid-

ing quality education state-of-the-art facilities. There is room for collaboration between local colleges and universities in areas like twinning, franchising and credit transfer programmes.

Decentralising colleges away from the Klang Valley is beneficial as it helps lower operating costs and ensures the continued survival of these institutions.

Inti College president Tan Yew Sing believes that nothing is impossible if the private colleges do not compromise on quality and efficiency.

"Private colleges must have the courage to change and a commitment to quality. In our case, between 15 and 20 non-performers are asked to leave each semester as we do not believe in making any compromise in education," he said.

Private colleges must work hard if they want to be institutions of international standard. The quality of education, however, cannot be compromised in the move from elitist to mass education.

Tan said there is room for more private colleges to contribute to the country's education system: "But there is no place for colleges that put quantity above quality and encourage the paper-chase syndrome."