

Better to validate degree than to franchise, says don

VALIDATION of a foreign college's programme as being equivalent to a British degree is preferable to franchising, according to Coventry University's Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Robert J Pryce.

"This is an acceptable practice in Britain and we prefer this to franchising because we know it is something you can do yourselves.

"It is your own programme developed in partnership with us and this is preferable to imposing something foreign," said Prof Pryce, who was speaking at the signing of an agreement between Coventry University and Inti College to conduct its Computing and Information Technology degree programme locally.

Prof Pryce said Coventry had agreed to validate Inti's diploma programme and considered it as equivalent to a degree from Coventry.

He added that Coventry had instituted several quality control measures.

His assurance comes in the wake

of a letter sent by Britain's Quality Assurance Agency chief executive John Randall to several British universities warning them not to compromise on quality when working with foreign colleges to offer their degree programmes abroad.

"Coventry will decide on the final assessment of the degree programme," said Prof Pryce.

He added the university had complete confidence in Inti's ability to run the programme.

"This trust is based on our six year relationship with Inti and the personal and academic contacts we have developed," said Prof Pryce.

With the arrangement, Inti students can complete the university's three year Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Computing and Information Technology programme at the college, under its Graduate Diploma programme.

Tan Yew Sing, president of Inti, signed on behalf of the college while Coventry was represented by Prof



Compiled by LEE SIEW YEE and S. INDRAMALAR

Pryce. It was witnessed by Inti's chairman of the Board of Governors Tan Sri Dr Abdul Majid Ismail.

Students can major either in Computer Science or Business Information Technology.

The two semesters they complete at Inti doing the Graduate Diploma programme is equivalent to the

third year of study at Coventry.

Tan said the programme would begin in April this year.

Inti expects about 100 students to sign up for the Graduate Diploma which at present will be offered only at its Subang Jaya campus.

Tan said students enrolled on the programme would save about 75% of the cost of studying for the degree in Britain.

To be admitted into the Graduate Diploma programme, students should have successfully completed the Inti Higher Diploma in Computer Science or Business Information Technology or have an equivalent qualification.

Coventry is the second university to validate Inti's Graduate Diploma Programme. Inti also recently signed a similar agreement with the University of Hertfordshire, also in Britain, to enable students to obtain a Bachelor in Business Administration (Hons) at the college. — by SIMRIT KAUR