

Inti Universal expects better business next year

INTI Universal Holdings Bhd (Inti), which owns and operates the Inti Group of Colleges, expects a better business for the group next year on the back of its ongoing expansion plan, both locally and abroad.

Its chief executive officer Tan Yew Sing said the expansion plan included the construction of a RM12-million resource centre in its main campus in Nilai, as well as the setting-up of the St Theresa Inti College in Bangkok, Thailand, of which the group has invested RM6 million to date.

"With all the investments that we are putting in, we will definitely do better," Tan said after the transfer of Inti's listing and quotation from the second board of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) to the main board in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Inti's shares opened at RM4.00 yesterday morning, up 24 sen from its last done price of RM3.76 prior to its suspension due to the transfer.

With the transfer, Inti has become the only education group in Malaysia to be listed on the KLSE's main board. Its current issued and paid-up share capital now stood at RM63 million comprising 63 million ordinary shares of RM1.00 each.

Tan said the Inti Group of Colleges, which consists of five campuses located in Nilai, Subang Jaya, Penang, Kota Kinabalu and Kuching, currently have a total student population of 11,000 students.

"We hope to get more than 10 per cent growth in the number of students next year," he said.

He added that INTI currently has the biggest number of students for academic programmes among local private colleges.

At the moment, the Inti Group of Colleges is the major income contributor for the group, Tan said.

Nevertheless, Inti was optimistic that contribution from other sources, such as its information technology (IT) subsidiary, Inti Information Technology Centre Sdn Bhd (IITC) and its overseas franchise programme in Vietnam, China and Thailand would also be coming in the near future.

"For our franchise programme, we expect the money to be coming in by year 2001 from all these countries," Tan said.

In Thailand, for instance, the St Theresa Intil College project was already scheduled for completion by year-end and is expected to be running its programmes in April 2001.

Meanwhile, the group is well into its plans to evolve into e-campuses (electronic campuses), where liaison with its existing foreign university partners will enable it to capitalise on technology transfer needed to run incubator projects.

Inti has outlined its vision 2010 where it will develop its colleges into internationalised e-campuses with emphasis on holistic education.

Although he declined to elaborate further on the e-campuses, Tan said the group has so far invested RM15 million in IT since the last three years. — Bernama