

Inti to expand locally and abroad

By HANIM ADNAN

INTI Universal Holdings Bhd is expanding its operations both locally and abroad as part of its efforts to tap the potential in private tertiary education worldwide.

Its managing director Tan Yew Sing said the education provider wanted to develop Inti into an "internationalised e-campus with emphasis on holistic education by year 2010".

Inti Universal, which owns and operates five colleges in Nilai, Su-

bang Jaya, Penang, Kota Kinabalu and Kuching, has a student population of 11,000.

Speaking at the company's briefing for analysts in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Tan said: "Through our 3i strategies which are IT focused, internationalisation and industry linkages, we would be able to penetrate the overseas market beyond Malaysia".

"We are seriously planning to increase the number of new students particularly foreign students," said Tan, adding that the group ex-

pected to raise its student population to 20,000 by 2010.

Some of its efforts include the group's branch college, *St Theresa Inti College* in Bangkok, which will start operation in April next year. It will attract students from new markets such as Africa and the Middle East. Inti will also source for new partners such as University of Adelaide, University of Hull and University of Manchester, new programmes and centres of post-graduate studies.

On the Malaysian front, work is

in progress to complete the RM12mil resource centre at its main campus in Nilai.

The Inti College Malaysia campus is also embarking on its third phase of construction to cater to the growing number of students, said Tan.

For the financial year ended Dec 31, 1999, the group registered a pre-tax profit of RM28.8mil, up 42% from RM20.3mil the previous year while group turnover increased by 44% to RM104.4mil from RM72.4mil previously.