

DUBAI 2000

Supplement



The 3 + 0 programmes offer a combination of affordable and quality education in an environment similar to what students would experience at foreign universities.

On track to achieving vision

Stories by PHILOMENA CHAN

DURING the 1997/1998 economic downturn, the depreciation of the ringgit had a tremendous effect on businesses and industries in the country.

Young and ambitious students encountered many problems, as their hopes to pursue a higher education and ultimately, to obtain a degree from a university abroad, were quickly dashed due to financial restraints.

Private colleges nationwide reported a sharp decrease in student enrolment for twinning and credit transfer programmes.

Many who had plans to study at foreign universities found it difficult to come up with the increased tuition fees and expenses.

Having survived the trying

times, Malaysia is intent on upholding its vision of making the country an excellent centre of education.

In July 1998, the Ministry of Education gave the approval to 10 private colleges to run 3 + 0 programmes locally in collaboration with foreign universities.

In September 1998, the Ministry gave another seven private colleges the approval to offer the programme.

Approximately 17 private colleges had this specific feature to offer its students.

Several of them include Sedaya College, HELP Institute, Nilai College, International College of Music (ICOM), Kolej Damansara Utama, INTI College, Limkokwing Institute, PTPL, Sunway College, Stamford College, Federal Institute of Technology, Kolej Bandar

Utama, Binary Business School and Sepang Institute of Technology among others.

Many of these colleges offer the 3 + 0 programmes with pride as they are able to extend students a more cost-effective alternative to studying.

The ministry's approval clearly reflects its confidence in the ability of private colleges to commit and provide high standards of tertiary education in the local arena.

The 3 + 0 programmes offer a combination of affordable and quality education, hence tremendous savings to Malaysian students and their parents.

The idea of extending 3 + 0 degree programmes is not new among colleges.

Many of them are committed to providing affordable education, and have attempted to arrange for

franchised degree programmes.

In fact, several colleges have been offered the graduate diploma, which is said to be equivalent to a degree programme.

Of course, apart from the teaching content of the 3 + 0 programmes, adequate and applicable resources are similarly essential.

Certain colleges already have an environment similar to what students would experience at foreign universities.

By environment, we mean both physical facilities and the nurturing of a university culture.

With the impressive list of colleges now offering the 3 + 0 option, the ministry will surely continue to keep close tabs on the quality measures stipulated.

All approvals are based on a specific validity period, after which it will usually be reviewed.

The 3 + 0 programme will surely expand the country's educational scope in the long run.

Many colleges will have to upgrade their facilities and increase their staff capacity as the final year of studies is an important year which requires proper facilities and excellent teaching.

The general improvement of the college will also help to develop the country and enhance the track record of the college.

These private colleges can expect quality control of the highest order from the ministry and other bodies to ensure and maintain the commendable standards of 3 + 0 programmes.

We can be assured that academic excellence will not be compromised, hence a secure and favourable outlook for the students of today, the leaders of tomorrow.