

Inti College Sarawak to invest RM15mil in further development

By JACK WONG in Kuching

INTI College Sarawak has set aside RM15mil for further development in the next five years to meet increasing student enrolment.

Its managing director William Tai Tieng Liang said the college planned to either expand its permanent campus in Kuching or build a second campus.

He said the present campus could be enlarged if the students' hostels were relocated and the existing buildings converted into classrooms.

The hostels now accommodate some 400 students and the college plans to acquire a piece of land near its campus to put up new hostels that could house more students.

Tan said the college, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, had invested some RM20mil in infrastructure and academic facilities since it bought the former St Patrick Secondary School in 1994 to build the present campus.

It recently spent almost RM1mil to upgrade and expand its nine computer and three engineering labs.

Inti College now has an enrolment of over 2,000, 23% of whom are international students from many countries, including Indo-

nesia, China, Japan, Sri Lanka and Taiwan.

"The present campus can take in a maximum of 3,000 students. We expect the number to reach 5,000 in the next three to five years," Tan added after the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the college on Monday.

Under the MoU with Sarawak Teachers' Union (STU), Inti College offers a special bursary scheme that gives 25% discount in tuition courses to all STU members and their children.

STU, which has 20 branches statewide and is the country's third largest teachers' union, now has 15,000 members.

It offers another bursary scheme that enables students who enrol for its courses next year to enjoy a 9%-15% discount in fees.

Tan said Inti College had agents in Indonesia to recruit students and was looking for similar agents in Thailand, Taiwan, Japan and other nations to help in the recruitment.

"We expect the number of our international students to reach 50% of the total student population in five years," he said.

Tan said the college which was expected to spend RM1.5mil in research and development activities in the next five years could take in up to 1,400 students per semester.