



Education fund sees good response

SHORTLISTING BEGINS ... representatives from 12 contributing educational institutions going through the list of applications for the Star Education Fund 2002 at Menara Star in Petaling Jaya during the first round of shortlisting yesterday.

A record 34 institutions have contributed scholarship awards worth RM6.5mil to the fund this year and the closing date for submitting applications for the awards was March 15.

According to fund secretary Ng Kok Wah, the response has been overwhelming.

"The number of applications received this year has been the highest so far. We will have a tough time

shortlisting them.

"A lot of the applications are from high achievers with seven, eight and nine As in the SPM examination," he said.

The institutions involved in the first round of shortlisting are KDU College, Taylor's College, Sedaya International College, Sunway College, Stamford College, Inti College Malaysia, Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology, Prime College, FTMS-ICL, Sepang Institute of Technology, the Systematic Education Group and the University of Nottingham in Malaysia.

Inti director of academic affairs/student services Dr Sia Ah Hiok said

the college, which is offering five awards this year, had to strike a balance between its own requirements and the fund's when shortlisting applicants.

Stamford's Centre for Academic Excellence director Dr Gregory Thong said the college would give preference for its degree programmes to students with good STPM results over those with SPM results.

"I think the STPM results provide a better indication of a student's ability to cope with three years of degree-level education," said Dr Thong, whose college is contributing 10 scholarships.