

Economic package good for education

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THE Malaysian Association of Private Colleges and Universities (MAPCU) is glad that the government had in the economic package addressed the importance of promoting Malaysia as the region's centre of educational excellence.

MAPCU secretary general Dr Lee Fah Onn said although no monetary incentive was given to the private education sector, he was pleased with the measures introduced in the package.

The government announced plans to establish four education promotion offices in Saudi Arabia, China, Indonesia and Vietnam to disseminate information on educational opportunities in Malaysia.

It is also seeking recognition from other countries for Malaysian education to attract more international students to pursue educational programmes in the country, as well as liberalising the procedures and conditions for foreign student entry into Malaysia by reducing visa payments, and allowing foreign students to bring in their families.

Lee, who is also the senior vice-president of Inti group of college, said such approaches were a step in the right direction.

He said Malaysia was currently housing over 32,000 international students who are pursuing primary, secondary and tertiary education.

This was a sharp increase over the 20,000 reported last year. And of the total foreign student population, the majority was from China and Indonesia.

"We are glad that the government has adopted some of the education industry's recommendations.

"We believe the new measures introduced will have a positive impact on the development of local private education industry," Lee said.