

Chance to travel and learn

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UNDERSTANDING that learning extends beyond the classroom, MAS Holidays and the UCSI Group recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to offer the nation's first inbound education travel programmes.

The MoU was signed by MAS Holidays with three of the Group's subsidiary companies – the UCSI Professional Academy, UCSI Extension (Sarawak) and UCSI University (Terengganu) – to promote leadership, English language skills and multi-culturalism among young people.

The Edu-Vacation Youth Programmes geared to teenagers and college students come in three different packages and locations, namely Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Terengganu and Kuching.

UCSI Group executive officer Wong Gon Kiang said: "This is the first initiative between an airline company and UCSI Group, and we believe that the youth would be able to benefit greatly from this programme and bring home wonderful memories."

"In addition to promoting youth development, the programmes also aim to promote the Malaysian culture and reinforce the nation's status globally as a leading tourist and education destination," Malaysia Airlines Commercial Strategy executive vice president Datuk Dr Amin



From left: Geikie Wong, Dr Amin Khan and Liew at the signing ceremony.

Khan said at the signing ceremony.

He added that this was unlike a regular exchange programme as the learning takes place while students are on a holiday.

Director of UCSI Extension, Sarawak, Gracie Geikie added that the programme aims to assist the youth in their development of a concrete skills base, enabling them to be effective leaders in their schools and communities.

"The Edu-Vacation Youth

Programmes will help youth develop the mindsets and skills to create and introduce wholesome approaches and make healthier decisions," she said.

Also present at the signing ceremony was MAS Holidays senior vice president Josephine Liew.

Meanwhile, UCSI University has appointed Prof Dr Lim Koon Ong as its deputy vice-chancellor (Academic Affairs and Research).

Prior to this appointment, Prof

Lim spent close to 35 years at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in various academic and administrative positions, including roles as professor and deputy vice-chancellor of the university's Industry and Community Networks Division.

In his new role, Prof Lim will provide leadership across the faculties within the university including its Centre of Excellence for Research, Value Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Cervie).



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– PROF DR LIM KOON ONG

"I look forward to working closely with colleagues across UCSI University over the next year," Prof Lim said.

"It is essential to the aims of the university in education and research that we do all we can to attract and retain staff of the highest calibre, and to support them in their work and in the development of their careers," he added.

Prof Lim has a background in research with specific interests in biophysics, bioenergy, biofuel and biomass.

He was one of the first in the nation to investigate the use of biomass as a renewable source of energy, one of the first in the world to study the mechanical properties of human heart valves and has published four books and more than 100 articles.

"With his extensive experience in academics and research, we are excited to have Prof Lim on board with us," said the university's vice-chancellor Dr Robert Bong.