

Aye to branch campuses

Educationists say it's good to have links with China and HK universities

PETALING JAYA: Educationists have responded positively to the move to set up branch campuses of top universities from China and Hong Kong in Malaysia.

Sunway University College executive director Elizabeth Lee said top Chinese universities were ranked very highly in the world.

"Only extremely good students can gain entry and as such a branch in Malaysia should offer more opportunities for international and Chinese students," she said.

Lee was commenting on MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat's statement that a move was being made to get one of the top three universities in China to set up a branch campus in Malaysia.

He said a similar effort was also being made to court the top three universities in Hong Kong.

Ong added that the move was made by certain parties in the private sector to boost the Iskandar Malaysia development region in Johor.

UCSI University deputy vice-chancellor Chin Peng Kit welcomed the idea, saying that this would mean students had more options to choose from, but he wanted to know if the programmes would be in English or Mandarin.

National Association of Bumiputera Private Colleges president Senator



Prof Datuk Dr Ismail Md Salleh said the universities from China and Hong Kong should focus on specific areas.

"Chinese universities are well-known for complementary medicine, so they should look into offering these programmes rather than business or Information Technology programmes which are already com-

mon here," he said.

Limkokwing University of Creative Technology president and founder Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing said inviting universities from China and Hong Kong to set up branch campuses would further strengthen Malaysia's appeal as an education destination and it might be possible to have partnerships with them.

Chow Siew Hon, deputy chairman of United Chinese School Committees Association of Malaysia or better known as Dong Zong, said the move would further enhance cultural and educational interaction for the people of both countries.

"Having a branch campus here will be convenient for Malaysian students and they can also save

A great honour

Tomei Consolidated Bhd executive chairman and Federation of Hakka Association Malaysia president Tan Sri Ng Teck Fong congratulating MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat for receiving the World Chinese Outstanding Leader award from World Chinese Union General (WCUG). Among those present are WCUG chairman Jiang Lin (centre), Health Minister Datuk Liew Tiong Lai (right), Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce advisor and Malaysia-China Friendship Association vice-president Datuk Ng Kek Kiong (left). Wanita MCA chief Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun (behind Ong) is also present at the dinner hosted by WCUG to receive Ong and his delegation. — NG KOK LEONG / The Star

costs," he said.

In Johor Baru, the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) chief executive officer Datuk Ikmal Hijaz Hashim said, "we view quality education as a key element that will help to realise our vision to become a strong and sustainable metropolis of international standing."