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UPA Partners CIMA To Offer Islamic Finance Course

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 22 (Bernama) -- The UCSI Professional Academy (UPA), which signed a memorandum of understanding Wednesday with the Chartered Institute of Management of Accountants (CIMA), will start offering an Islamic finance course on Oct 16, 2010.

The collaboration is considered unique as UPA will offer the CIMA Certificate in Islamic Finance as well as CIMA accounting courses, its manager Sudesh G. Balasubramaniam told reporters after the signing ceremony here.

Representing CIMA was its executive director of education, Dr Robert Jelly.

Sudesh said the CIMA Certificate in Islamic Finance was the first qualification offered by a professional accounting body to focus on the fast-growing segment.

"UPA will be the first institution in Malaysia to be recognised as a CIMA Islamic Finance Associate, and given exclusivity to provide examination preparatory courses," he said.

In conjunction with the signing ceremony, Jelly presented a talk entitled "Islamic Finance: Global Development and Trends", which highlighted that professional qualifications were not available in the Islamic finance sector.

According to him, it is crucial to bring professionals into the industry due to an increasing proportion of Muslims and non-Muslims worldwide seeking Islamic financial products.

The course has four modules comprising Islamic commercial law, Islamic banking, takaful and Islamic capital market products. The duration is from two months to six months.