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Aerospace University to admit first batch of students in 2000

MALAYSIA'S very own Aerospace University adjoining the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Kepala Batas will be ready for its first batch of students by the year 2000.

It will offer its local and international students diploma, bachelor's and post-graduate degrees in aerospace engineering and technology.

They will also be trained in flying.

The university will also obtain certification for its technicians from the civil aviation authorities of Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Aerospace Industries Malaysia Sdn Bhd vice president Brig Jen (rtd) Datuk Ahmad Sujak Bon said yesterday that the university would take about 500 students in the first batch.

"Eventually, we will be able to train up to 3,000 students," he told the New Straits Times at the AIM booth at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre, the venue of the aerospace segment of Lima '97.

The university, estimated to cost RM160 million, will house the AIM Flight Academy, Academic Faculty, Aerospace Research Division and Royal Malaysian Air Force College.

There will also be a RMAF Cadet Officers' School, RMAF Institute of Specialist Training, an administration building and a mosque.

Construction of the first phase involving 21 hectares of land is expected to begin soon.

About 50 hectares have been reserved for future development of the campus.

AIM will be operating and managing the university.

Earlier, a memorandum of understanding was signed between AIM and Hunting Aviation of the United Kingdom to support the AIM Flight Academy which is part of the Aerospace University of Malaysia.

AIM chairman Lt Jen (rtd) Datuk Seri Mohd Yunus Mohd Tasi signed on behalf of the company while Hunting Aviation was represented by its director (contractor services) Robert Mcluckie.

The signing was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The MOU will pave the way for both parties to exchange flying instructors and facilitate the standardisation of instructional techniques, training methodology, research and development and exchange of information.

Hunting Aviation is well-known worldwide for its skilled flying instructors.

Currently, it has been entrusted by the British Armed Forces to run the Joint Elementary Flying Training School and the Fleet Requirements Air Direction Unit.

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