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Contemporary music college launched

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Malaysians can now pursue tertiary education, an interest in music and a secure career in an ever-evolving field with the launch of the country's first contemporary music college today.

The International College of Music caters specifically to the study of contemporary music and music technology, but also gives students in-depth knowledge on the evolution of Malaysian music.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak launched the college on behalf of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at its premises off Jalan Pahang today.

Najib also witnessed the signing between ICOM and Berklee College of Music in Boston, the United States, of agreements on a transfer programme and tuition scholarships to ICOM students enrolled in the programme.

ICOM was also inducted into the Berklee International Network, which includes music schools in Spain, Greece, Israel, France, Finland and Japan.

Najib also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the development of a four-year Bachelor of Music (Hons) degree programme taught at ICOM and validated by the University of Westminster in the United Kingdom.

The chairman of ICOM's Board of Governors, Tan Sri Murad Mohd Noor, said these agreements complemented ICOM's emphasis on technology, by establishing Malaysia as a centre of music education excellence and contributing towards its foreign exchange.

"In line with the country's economic growth and the steady development of the music industry, there is an urgent need for qualified manpower, especially in the area of contemporary music," he said, adding that the domestic music industry contributed RM1 billion to the economy last year.

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