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New campus ready by the year 2000

IPOH, Mon. - Universiti Sains Malaysia's engineering campus currently based at Tronoh, should commence courses at its new Seberang Prai premises by the year 2000.

USM Perak branch campus director Associate Prof Mohd Hashim Daud said today that discussions were being held with Petronas to allow the university to operate from its current premises until its new campus was ready.

Petronas plans to set up its own university, the Petronas Institute of Technology, at USM's Tronoh campus which it acquired for RM215 million.

The oil corporation plans seven engineering faculties and expects to produce its first batch of graduates by the year 2000.

Mohd Hashim said with the relocation, USM would be able to increase its intake of engineering students to 4,000.

He said this was in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for universities to increase their enrolments to 20,000 students per year.

Mohd Hashim said work on the new campus had already begun.

He said the Tronoh campus now accommodated 1,800 engineering students who were pursuing courses in civil engineering, materials and mineral resources, electrical, mechanical and chemical engineering.

Mohd Hashim added that 580 students would be admitted for engineering courses in the coming academic year, compared to 480 last year.

Of that number, 120 students have enrolled for the civil engineering course, 130 on materials and mineral resources, 130 for electrical engineering, 100 for mechanical engineering and 100 for chemical engineering.

Earlier this month, USM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Ishak Tamby Kechik said the campus would be relocated to Sungai Acheh on the Penang mainland.

Ishak also said the relocation would be carried out with the co-operation of the Federal and State Governments.

He added that USM hoped to play a greater role in Penang's and the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle's development with the relocation of its campus.

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