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## Pernas plans to set up hotel institute

PERNAS Hotel School Sdn Bhd plans to establish a hotel management institute which will become the first in the country to offer internationally accredited qualifications.

Pernas International Holdings Bhd chairman and chief executive officer Tunku Tan Sri Shahrizan Tunku Sulaiman said Pernas Hotel School and Institute Vatel, a hotel management school in France, would jointly set up the institute.

"We will jointly issue internationally accredited certificates without our students having to complete their education in France," he said in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Two of Institute Vatel's representatives would be on the Pernas Hotel School's quality and curriculum board as well as assist with external examinations for its higher diploma and degree courses.

"We will receive the necessary expertise and technical aid for our lecturers as well as students from Institute Vatel."

The hotel management institute will open its doors for business in October. Initially, it will offer basic skills certificate courses such as front office and housekeeping.

By April, the institute will offer diploma courses while the higher diploma and degree courses will begin by January 1999.

"Until 1999, the institute will be located at Kompleks Antarabangsa adjacent to the Hilton Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. Then, it will be housed at its permanent campus in Bandar Seri Putra, Bangi Heights," Tunku Shahrizan said.

On long-term plans for the institute, he said the group's aim was for the institute to "graduate" into a university.

The idea behind such an institute was mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad in March this year.

On the hospitality industry, he said there was an acute shortage of skilled personnel across the board. By the year 2000, 95,000 vacancies were expected in the hospitality industry.

Pernas Hotel Management Sdn Bhd general manager Zarita Noordin said the institute would be funded internally.

"The institute fees would be between those offered by private institutions and local universities."

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