

13/11/1997

TIME signs pact with UK Open University

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Open University of the United Kingdom, considered the most established open and distance learning institution in the world, today signed a partnership agreement with TIME Multi Media Sdn Bhd to offer technology-based distance learning programmes in Malaysia by 1998.

TIME is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Electronic Data Interchange (M) Sdn Bhd or EDI Malaysia and TIME Telecommunications Sdn Bhd or TIME Telekom.

The partnership agreement signing was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after he launched the four-day Asian Association of Open Universities Conference and Exhibition at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Under the agreement, self-study learning materials would be delivered directly to students via a wide variety of Internet and multimedia applications so that they can study at their own time and pace.

The results of on-going market research to determine the type and range of courses to be made available, is expected to be completed by December.

The Open University was represented by its Vice Chancellor Sir John Daniel, TIME Multi Media by its chief executive officer Indra Gunawan Alamshah while TIME Telekom was represented by its executive vice chairman Kamarudin Abu Bakar.

The four-day AAOU conference and exhibition which ends on Friday, has drawn 120 delegates from 19 countries.

This marks the first time the AAOU conference and exhibition, themed Quality Assurance in Distance and Open Learning and hosted by Institut Teknologi Mara, was being held in Malaysia.

The New Straits Times is the official newspaper.

Among the participating scholars were Professor Datuk Dr G. Dhanarajan, president of the Canada-based Commonwealth of Learning; Professor James Taylor from the University of Southern Queensland in Australia and Professor Martin Siegel from Indiana University in the United States. The exhibition was expected to generate widespread public interest through first-hand demonstrations of the latest developments and innovations in teaching and learning methods.

The exhibition would showcase the latest developments in distance education, instructional materials, development and production, educational hardware and software, multimedia systems and technology, telemedicine and telelearning.

Issues which were expected to be discussed include the globalisation, quality and competitiveness in distance and open learning, developing distance and open learning using the Multimedia Super Corridor, and using electronic communication networks to support distance education students and tutors.

(END)