

17 APR 2001

IIUM-Opening

IIUM OFFICIALLY OPENED BY FOUNDER, DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 17 (Bernama) -- International Islamic University Malaysia (UIAM) was officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today.

The university's new campus which spreads over a sprawling 272-hectare site in Gombak is a far cry from its temporary campus in Petaling Jaya back in 1983 when IIUM first opened its doors with 153 students.

The buildings at the Gombak campus which incorporate Islamic, local and modern elements are truly stunning and are inter-connected with covered walkways for the convenience of students.

The physical development of IIUM was planned with the intention of establishing an intellectual community that is strengthened through knowledge and Islamic values and virtues.

IIUM, which aspires to be a "Garden of Knowledge and Virtue", now has almost 16,000 students of which 5,300 are from the matriculation centre. The number of international students is about 1,500, coming from 96 countries.

The nine faculties or "kulliyah" of the university are the Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws; Kulliyah of Economics and Management Sciences; Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences; Kulliyah of Medicine (in Kuantan); Kulliyah of Engineering.

Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design; Kulliyah of Education; Kulliyah of Science and Kulliyah of Pharmacy.

During the opening ceremony, Dr Mahathir also received on behalf of the university, contributions from sponsors amounting to RM5.5 million for the IIUM Endowment Fund.

Later, after visiting an exhibition in conjunction with the opening of the university, he witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between IIUM and the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies aimed at fostering closer relations in the academic field.

Dr Mahathir simultaneously declared open the university and the second General Conference of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) which is attended by 130 participants.

A total number of 148 universities from as many as 37 countries are full members of FUIW.

The first general conference was held in Rabat, Morocco in 1998.

-- BERNAMA

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