

Mara to send more students

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to

Germany

MUNICH: Mara hopes to send about 200 students to study in technical universities in Bavaria over the next five years under an agreement signed here on Monday.

Mara director-general Datuk Mohd Mydin Mohd Sheriff said 45 students would be sent annually after completing a two-year preparatory course in language and hands-on training at the German-Malaysian Institute in Cheras.

He said this to reporters after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Entrepreneurial Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohammad Nazri Abdul Aziz and Bavarian Minister of Science, Technology and Arts Hans Zehetmair.

He said the first batch of 45 students was scheduled to begin a four-year engineering degree course at five leading technical universities in Bavaria. At present, the Malaysian student population in Germany is about 150.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wit-

nessed the signing of the MoU at the Hotel Bayerischer Hof here where more than 150 Malaysians were also present at a reception held in his honour.

"I never expected to see so many Malaysians in Munich," said Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and Energy

and Multimedia Minister Datuk Leo Moggie.

Many were students, but a good number were members of the Malaysian community in Munich who were accompanied by their German spouses and children.

The Malaysian Club Bayern, formed in 1997, has about 60 members, and according to founding member Keong-Swee Lee, its members came to Germany for

work or because of love.

Lee, formerly of Petaling Jaya, went to a British university where he met his German wife, and after a couple of years in Malaysia, settled in Munich where he is the product engineer at the currency automation division of Giesecke & Devrient.

"Most of our members have been here for about 20 years," he said. — **By TAN KAH PENG**