

26 FEB 2002

Ling-UTAR

ACCREDITATION BOARD GIVES RECOGNITION TO TWO UTAR COURSES

PETALING JAYA, Feb 26 (Bernama) -- The National Accreditation Board (LAN) has given recognition to two courses offered by the University Tuanku Abdul Rahman (UTAR).

The courses are bachelor's degree in Chinese Studies and Business Administration.

MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today the university was also awaiting approvals from Lan for six other courses.

"We do not foresee any problems in getting the other six courses recognised by Lan," he told reporters after inspecting renovation works to the former premises of The Star Publications that will be used as Utar's temporary campus here.

On the renovation works, Dr Ling said he was confident that the entire building would be ready for occupancy by the end of next month.

The renovation works include construction of 20 lecture halls, an administrative office and other facilities for students and staff.

Dr Ling, who is also Transport Minister, said the first students intake would be launched in the middle of June by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who would also give the first lecture to the students.

On the number of students, Dr Ling who is chairman of UTAR Steering Committee said they would prefer to start from a small number and grow up as more people were interested to join the university.

He also announced the appointment of internationally acclaimed scholar Prof Wang Gungwu to head UTAR's International Academic Advisory Council.

Prof Wang, who was born in Surabaya, Indonesia and grew up in Malaysia, is the world's pre-eminent authority on Chinese diaspora.

He was the director of the East Asia Centre of the University of Singapore, former director of the Research School of Pacific Studies at the Australian National University and former vice-chancellor of the National University of Hong Kong.

--BERNAMA

AKT MFJ ABG