

Opening Address by the Honourable Minister of Education, Inche Hussein Onn, at the MEETING of CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE held in the Balai Seminar, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Kuala Lumpur on Monday, 3rd July, 1972 at 9.00 am.

It gives me great pleasure to be with you this morning at this biennial conference, and to welcome our two visitors from Cambridge, Dr. Wild and Mr. Hardy.

As you are all aware, the joint effort between Malaysia and Cambridge in the conducting of Cambridge examinations, dates back to some seventy years. These biennial meetings are important; they solve problems which arise in the conduct of the SPM, MCE and HSC examinations.

As from this year, the processing and issuing of SPM results, will be done in Kuala Lumpur. Following this, it is also our intention to participate more effectively and in a greater measure in the MCE examination and also in the HSC examination. It is because of this that we will be marking the History, Geography and Mathematics papers for the MCE examination starting from this year. In order to cope with the increased load, we will purchase another computer and other accessories, costing 1.5 million dollars. Additional staff will also be recruited.

We now have 17 examination specialists in the Test Development Unit for building objective-type question papers for the Standard Five Assessment Examination and the SRP/LCE examinations, and the traditional papers for the Vocational and Commercial Certificate Examinations. These specialists have also built the Nuffield-type examination papers for the Modern Physics, Modern Chemistry and Modern Biology courses. SPM/MCE examination candidates will be able to offer these courses for the first time in 1973. These specialists will also study the SPM/MCE syllabuses for all subjects with the view to making them suitable for local requirements.

Islam is the religion of Malaysia, and Islamic studies at the tertiary level are being broadened with the establishment of

the Faculty of Islam at the National University. As a result of this, from 1973, Islamic Studies at the SPM/MCE level will be made a cognate subject for selection into Form Six. It is also our intention that with the broadening of Islamic studies at the tertiary level, three subjects, namely, Arabic Language and Literature, Islamic Tenets and Islamic Theology should be made subjects offerable at the Principal level in the HSC examination, beginning from 1973.

The present Examination Syndicate building is inadequate for our needs. A new ten-storey building, costing 4 million dollars, is now under construction at Jalan Duta and is expected to be ready in early 1974. Ample storage space will also be available for storing answer scripts, objective answer sheets, stationery, etc.

We have established a Biological Supplies Unit in Jalan Damansara and we have the facilities and staff to prepare examination materials for the practical science examinations at SPM, MCE and HSC levels for the 1973 examinations. In order to ensure the preparation and supply of these science materials and specimens in good time for the practical examinations, it is necessary that we are provided with the lists of materials and specimens required for the examinations by February of each year.

The Biological Supplies Unit will also supply biological materials for classroom teaching so that local species of plants and animals which are useful and meaningful to the pupils, can be studied.

We are keeping abreast with educational developments in other parts of the world. We do this by sending our officers abroad to attend international conferences, seminars and workshops. We are determined to ensure that our educational system is the most modern and best suited to our country's needs. The Ministry of Education has and will continue to concentrate its efforts on the teaching of Mathematics, Science and Technical subjects. This is to ensure an adequate supply of the necessary man-power for our country's development and progress.

We are in the process of establishing an Educational Development Centre where efforts will be directed, not only on curriculum revision and development and the preparation of our own syllabuses, but also on new techniques of testing and evaluation.

Two training courses were conducted in August, 1971, and April, 1972, to train a total of 55 Science teachers in test development and preparation/question papers for the Nuffield-type science examination, which will be introduced in the SPM/MCE examinations in 1973.

Another training course for 150 local examiners was conducted in Kuala Lumpur, with the cooperation of the Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate, in April, 1972, for a period of a fortnight, to mark SPM and MCE papers in respect of Mathematics, Science, Geography, History and English. We intend to send about 20 more of our examiners to the United Kingdom in December, 1972, for training.

In view of the very high cost of printing and air freighting of examination papers and the increased volume of printing work carried out overseas, we are seriously considering the possibilities of establishing our own printing unit, which will initially manage the printing of question papers for the Standard Five Assessment Examination and the SRP/LCE examinations. We feel that if the draft question papers for SPM/MCE examinations can be finalised early by Cambridge, and the question papers despatched early to us by surface mail, a big reduction in freight charges can be made.

With the increased participation by us in the conduct of the SPM/MCE examinations this year, and further, with the growth in the number of universities in our country, we intend to play a more active and bigger role in the conduct of the HSC examination as well. In addition, to our present participation, we wish to take on more work relating to the HSC examination, particularly in the processing of entries, appointment of examiners, apportionment of scripts, etc.

I would like this meeting to give very serious

.....4/-

consideration to all the matters which I have mentioned.

I hope Dr. Wild and Mr. Hardy will have a pleasant stay in our country. I now have great pleasure in declaring open the meeting.

Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia,
Kuala Lumpur.

3hb Julai, 1972.

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.

Faint, illegible text in the middle of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.



No Siri 114
No Penerimaan 114/80