

Education door widens for Malaysians

NST- 6/12/2006

THE Malaysia France University Centre (MFUC) is organising its first high-level bilateral conference tomorrow and Friday in Kuala Lumpur.

"MFUC will make it easier for academic staff and students from both countries to access the respective educational systems," said French Ambassador to Malaysia H.E.M. Alain du Boispean.

The conference, themed "New opportunities for Higher Education Excellence", will bring all partners together to

exchange views and share experiences on existing co-operations.

Long-lasting partnerships have been set up in various fields, such as aerospace, business management, information technology, engineering, mechanics, chemistry and pharmacology.

There are nearly 25 programmes on offer, including joint degrees, student exchanges and research projects, involving over 35 Malaysian and French univer-

sities or Grandes écoles.

The conference also aims to facilitate new projects such as joint degrees or delocalised training.

The 15 French university representatives taking part in the Kuala Lumpur conference will work with their Malaysian counterparts from prestigious higher education institutions such as HELP University College, Multimedia University, Open University Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Tek-

nologi Mara, Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

Higher education co-operation between both countries is expected to increase rapidly in the coming years, as they share common views and goals.

Malaysia also has the advantage in terms of facilities, which would make it the Southeast Asian education hub of the next decade.

France, being the third destination worldwide for international students, continuously takes steps to adjust its educational offers to meet global demands.

MFUC, inaugurated last April as a result of a government to government initiative, is now in charge of implementing the bridge-building process.

Its main task is to offer advisory services and assistance to both students and institutions.