

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 20/1/2008



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, flanked by Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik (left) and Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon at the opening of the Wawasan Open University campus in George Town yesterday. With them is vice-chancellor and CEO of the university, Tan Sri Emeritus Prof Gajaraj Dhanarajan.

## PM: Add value to education

NST- 20/1/2008

**GEORGE TOWN:** Malaysians can be assured of the highest quality of education to ensure the development of human capital.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the Higher Education Ministry had introduced various programmes to provide a more conducive learning environment.

Abdullah said: "There is a need for us to improve further and add value to the quality of education, especially as we are facing a fast-changing and ever-challenging world.

"I can assure you that greater

development will continue to take place in our education system for us to move forward and to attain progress we can be proud of," the prime minister said at the opening of Wawasan Open University (WOU) campus here yesterday.

He also stressed the importance of life-long learning and said educational opportunities should be made available to all, irrespective of their background.

"Every university and institution of higher learning should improve educational facilities and offer

programmes suited to the employment market."

Located in the heritage mansion "Homestead" which has a recently-completed 12-storey tower block, WOU is the country's first private, not-for-profit open learning institution.

Homestead was handed to the Wawasan Open Foundation as a gift from the family of Datuk Seri Stephen Yeap, grandson of magnate Yeap Chor Ee.

Abdullah also announced a RM20 million grant to the university fund.