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PRIME NEWS

# PM: Raise education quality

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**BETTER RANKING:**

Government firm in generating skilled workforce

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**T**HE setting up of Xiamen University Malaysia campus as Xiamen University's first international campus in Malaysia will attract high quality students from abroad and provide more choices for local students.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said it was fitting that Xiamen University had chosen Malaysia as the venue for its first overseas campus.

"Xiamen University is a prestigious and an internationally recognised university. Malaysian students will be able to undertake a global education at a reasonable cost, right here in Malaysia."

Malaysia, Najib said, was set to climb the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (Unesco) list of preferred educational destinations from its 11th place ranking.

The government's resolution was absolute to churn out a home grown workforce, capable of generating big new ideas and game-changing strategies that could create wealth and jobs for the people.

"To achieve both goals (improve ranking and generate capable workforce), Malaysia must improve the range and quality of our tertiary education.



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** at the **groundbreaking ceremony for Xiamen University Malaysia campus** in Sepang yesterday. With him are (from left) special envoy to China **Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting**, Second Education Minister **Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh**, Chinese Assistant Education Minister **Chen Shun** and Transport Minister and MCA president **Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai**. Pic by Fariz Iswadi

"The Xiamen University campus will help us to do this," he said at the groundbreaking ceremony of the RM600 million Xiamen University Malaysia campus yesterday.

Present were Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai and special envoy of the Malaysian prime minister to China Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting.

Najib said the campus was part of the government's plan to turn Malaysia into a global education hub. It aims to attract some 200,000 international students to study in the country by 2020.

There are 123,000 international students from 163 countries, pur-

suing their tertiary education in various institutions in Malaysia.

Calling the groundbreaking ceremony for the new campus a symbolic gesture of the friendship shared between both nations for the past 40 years, he added there was an increased commitment by both countries to broaden and deepen their bilateral cooperation.

"The government will give its fullest support to the project (building the campus) to meet the tight deadline (of completion)."

The prime minister said the sense of community created here at the Xiamen University Malaysia campus would ensure peace and

friendship between the two countries for years to come.

"The 21st century will likely be Asia's century. China aspires to be the largest economy in the world while Malaysia aims to be a fully developed nation by 2020."

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