

Dr Mahathir Is First Chancellor Of Perdana University

Bernama

September 12, 2011

By M. Saraswathi

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been installed the first chancellor of the newly-established Perdana University Graduate School of Medicine (PUGSOM).

The first medical school under PUGSOM will offer a four-year graduate entry medical programme based on a United States (US) curriculum, in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins University (JHU), school of medicine.

The second is Perdana University-Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (PU-RCSI) school of medicine that will offer a five-year programme based on a conventional curriculum, in collaboration with the RCSI.

"I am delighted and humbled to accept (the offer) as chancellor of Perdana University," said Dr Mahathir during his acceptance speech at the official launch of Perdana University and Installation of First Chancellor here Monday.

The university was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Also present at the event was Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop and Perdana University chairman Tan Sri Dr Mohan Swami.

Dr Mahathir said the collaboration with the two very well-known universities would benefit not only Perdana University but also the country.

"One has to remember that even when we are very well up in any field of knowledge, there is always something to be learned from other people."

He said one of the many benefits from such tie-ups was that the university would be swiftly recognised by others and attract foreign students.

"The cost to study medicine in the US is very high. Here, the cost will be reduced quite considerably, and that will mean that you will be within the reach of a lot more students who otherwise will not be able to get entry into an American university," added Dr Mahathir.

The university, which aims to take up 10-20 per cent of foreign students from next year, is a public-private partnership project initiated by the public-private partnership unit at the Prime Minister's Department and Academic Medical Sdn Bhd (AMC).

Two agreements, between AMC and the JHU and Johns Hopkins Medicine International, and another formalising the collaboration between AMC and the RCSI, were signed last year.

The convention buildings at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang is being used as Perdana University's interim facility.

The first in-take has 75 students for the PU-RCSI programme and 30 students for JHU. Of

the 105 pioneer students, only one is a foreigner from Bahrain.

It was also stated that 50 per cent of the students are sponsored by the government.

--BERNAMA

Copyright © 2011 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsgeneral.php?id=612915>