

# Seeking mutual recognition

The Star - 24/7/2006

BY HOO BAN KHEE  
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

## KL and Beijing discuss accreditation system

**BEIJING:** Malaysia and China have agreed to work together on a mutual accreditation programme for tertiary students of both countries, said Deputy Minister of Higher Education Datuk Ong Tee Keat.

He said he had discussed Malaysia's accreditation system with the Chinese authorities and both sides were exploring "commonalities"

which can benefit both sides.

"Our discussions with the Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange were encouraging but we still have to put in more effort," he said at a meet-the-students session at the Malaysian embassy on Saturday evening.

Ong told Malaysian journalists that

the proposed Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), which is expected to be set up under an act of Parliament in October, would maintain a list of accredited courses and colleges.

It is hoped that through "mutual effort", the system could help to work out the Malaysian equivalent

of foreign qualifications.

National Accreditation Board chief executive officer Datuk Dr Sharifah Hapsah and Department of Higher Education Management deputy director general Prof Yusof Kassim were also in the delegation that arrived in Beijing on Friday.

Ong said he was also launching a

media blitz to promote Malaysia's educational facilities to attract more Chinese students to study in Malaysia.

"We need to beef up our efforts as Malaysia is only hosting about 10,000 Chinese students now," he added.

"We are shifting our focus to mid-west China and we plan to reach out to more people in this region."

Ong's itinerary will take him to Xian, Chongqing and Chengdu.