

Creating Nobel laureates with a difference

THE PERMATA Insan programme camp that is held twice a year in June and December during the school holidays, was set up with the aim of nurturing and developing exceptionally gifted Muslim children to become tomorrow's leaders, scientists, researchers and professionals who are balanced with the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah.

"Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) is the only university that pioneers Islamic science and with the development of PERMATA Insan, USIM intends to create a Muslim Nobel Laureate with a difference. This person will possess the *Al-Abrar* personality (nobility), and he will be innovative and capable of integrating revealed knowledge (*naqli*) and human knowledge (*aqli*) in his work and daily life," says Professor Datuk Dr Asma Ismail, Vice Chancellor of USIM.

The programme starts with students as young as 8 years old so that it can develop their potential holistically and optimally. Students of the PERMATA Insan programme will also be required to memorise the Quran and be trained to master the understanding of the Quran and Sunnah, Quranic language as well as other major languages.



According to Dr Nik Salida Suhaila, Deputy Director of Pusat PERMATA Insan, the programme teaches human development to young students, focusing on leadership, talent and potentials, mental arithmetic, speed reading, appreciation of science and technology, public speaking, communication skills, social skills as well as ICT.

"The students will also be required to learn Arabic and English to improve their proficiency in both languages. The most important curriculum is Quran

and Sunnah, which will include natural sciences, mathematics, astronomy, human biology, animal and plant biology, physics, materials and minerals, and the technology and history of Islamic science," she adds.

When the students move on to their secondary education at the PERMATA Insan College, their curriculum will be an integrated version of the national philosophy of education with the philosophy of Islamic education, including Islamic science, knowledge, social res-

ponsibility, moral, ethics and professionalism, spirituality, communication, scientific method, entrepreneurial skills, and social enterprise.

"These skills and knowledge will help them in their academic life by championing fundamental research in the country, as well as moving them towards becoming Nobel laureates by design and not by chance," says Dr Nik Salida.

She adds that learning about Islamic sciences will help students of the PERMATA Insan programme in understanding the theoretical framework and concepts of Islamic science as mentioned in the Quran and Sunnah.

"This is the basis for learning and developing modern science and technology. As the students will be trained to become future leaders, scientists and researchers and professionals with the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah, with the *Al-Abrar* personality as well as with *naqli* and *aqli*, this nature of learning is imperative," concludes Dr Nik Salida.

For more information
permatainsan.usim.edu.my

Gaining admission to the programme

STUDENTS who wish to gain entry into the PERMATA Insan programme have to meet the following criteria:

- Malaysian Muslim students who are 8 years old.
- Students are required to sit for the IQ Test UKM1 exam, which can be taken online.
- Students who pass the IQ Test UKM1 exam will be required to sit for the IQ Test UKM2 exam, which will be tougher than the IQ Test UKM1 exam.
- Students who pass the IQ Test UKM2 will be required to sit for the USIM 1 exam, which will test their knowledge of Islam, reciting the Al-Quran, and the Arabic and English languages.