

Progress with knowledge

Learn from Islam's golden era, PM tells varsities



Recognition: Abdullah admiring USIM awards and medals shown to him by Prof Madya Chek Zaini Hasan at the exhibition held in conjunction with the opening of the university's permanent campus in Nilai yesterday. — Bernama

NILAI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi urged institutions of higher learning to emulate the knowledge-rich golden era of Islam in carrying out research.

He said there was no way the young people of this country could not progress as sophisticated facilities were provided for them by the Government.

"Our children can carve history and a new civilisation in the present Islamic world," Abdullah said yesterday when opening the permanent campus of Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) in Bandar

Baru Nilai.

USIM was formerly Kolej Universiti Islam Malaysia.

Abdullah said facilities available in the country should be expanded and upgraded in an effort to disseminate knowledge.

He said the country was developing its people to become high quality human capital to achieve success.

Abdullah said he wanted institutions of higher learning to consider the needs of society and the country when offering courses.

"The Government has launched an initiative to transform the nation-

al education system, including at tertiary level," he said.

He said besides theoretical and practical lessons, programmes offered should contain specific components which fostered noble values, developed skills and instilled self-confidence.

This was to enable students to adapt themselves to society and in the employment market.

These components included communication skills, use of information technology, entrepreneurship, creative and critical thinking, and basic management, he said.

Abdullah said he hoped Islamic

universities such as USIM would be able to develop their own brands and have their own traditions like other leading universities.

Later, when launching the Open University Chancellor Foundation, Abdullah urged Malaysians to show their caring spirit by giving others the chance to further their studies.

This was because, he added, people could then be empowered to change their lives for the better.

Corporation and individuals including its pro chancellor Tan Sri Azman Hashim contributed a total of RM8mil to the foundation. Azman alone pledged RM3mil. — Bernama