



Higher Education Department director-general **Professor Datuk Dr Asma Ismail** (right) talking to participants after opening the 'Decolonisation, Leadership and Knowledge Democracy in the 21st Century' conference at Nottingham University Malaysia Campus in Semenyih yesterday. Pic by Zulfadhli Zulkarnain

New higher education blueprint in March

SEMENYIH: The new Higher Education Blueprint will be revealed in March, said Education Ministry's Higher Education Department director-general Professor Datuk Dr Asma Ismail.

She said the blueprint was in the final drafting stage and that the ministry was holding town hall sessions with stakeholders in the country.

"The actual plan is on the ministry's website. We welcome comments and feedbacks from the public," she said after officiating the "Decolonisation, Leadership and Knowledge Democracy in the 21st Century" conference at Nottingham University Malaysia Campus here yesterday.

The blueprint, Asma said, would cover how higher education could be improved to cater to the talents, lecturers and students in local universities.

"We, too, are looking into the collaboration between public and private higher learning

institutions to improve higher education."

She said there was a need for universities to move in new areas, such as Islamic science and tropical biodiversity.

"These are some of the new areas that the ministry will launch under the new blueprint. We will provide more opportunities for life-long learning and blended learning, for example, the globalised online learning."

Asma said the conference was timely as the ministry needed to explore new ideas to foresee the challenges.

The two-day event, which began yesterday, was a collaboration between the ministry through its Academy for Higher Education Leadership, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus and the Multiversity.

The conference drew together Malaysian and international delegates and explored critical questions about the future of higher education in the country.