

# Intellectual approach to convocation fair

By Sabariah Salleh

FOR a newly-established university, Kolej Universiti Islam Malaysia (KUIM) has a lot to shout about. It has organised two convocations and is planning the third.

"One may argue that it is too early to plan our next convocation, which will probably be held in August," said KUIM Registrar Addeenan Abd Rahman.

"However, we like to be prepared and planning in advance enables us to check for errors and such," he said. KUIM's convocation involves the teaching faculty, students and other staff. From designing the souvenir book, car stickers and invitation cards to taking care of the protocol and decorations, staff work with students to ensure a memorable convocation.

Attending KUIM's convocation is an interesting experience. Announcements are made in three lan-

guages: Bahasa Melayu, English and Arabic.

"As an Islamic college university whose language of instruction is in English and Arabic, we take pride in our ability to be multilingual," he said.

Meanwhile, the usual fair which takes place during a convocation is held in a low-key manner.

"We don't have the usual food, beverage and souvenir stalls.

"We want to do away with the night market concept and come up with a more intellectual approach.

"Instead, we will have exhibitions by renowned companies and our college university. So, it is more focused on knowledge and careers," he said, adding that students were in charge of organising the convocation fair.

To date, more than 700 students have graduated from KUIM. The last convocation saw a 0.05 per cent increase in First-Class hon-



**MULTILINGUAL ATMOSPHERE:** At KUIM, convocations are in three languages.

ours graduates. The number of Second-Class (upper) graduates has also increased from 27.96 per cent to 28.73 per cent.

So, what has the college university done to better the performance of its graduates?

"Firstly, we monitor the performance of each student. Those with a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of less than 2.5 will be identified and undergo a special academic programme.

These programmes are

held during semester breaks and weekends," he said.

This strategy paid off because as of this year, the number of Third-Class graduates decreased from 8.05 per cent to 6.99 per cent.

Also, KUIM identifies students who are potential First-Class graduates and sends them to camps and to participate in activities which help them maintain or improve their CGPA.

"We also have programmes for students who have problems with lan-

guage classes.

As Arabic and English are our two main languages of instruction, it is important for students to be fluent in them.

"Hence, those who cannot cope with the language classes are sent to language camps," he added.

KUIM aims to increase the number of First-Class graduates next year.

"We monitor our students' performance every semester so it is nice to see them succeed," he said. This year, KUIM gave more than six

awards to its excellent students.

Topping the list of high achievers was Wan Mohd Fazrul Azdi Wan Razali, the Royal Award (Anugerah DiRaja) recipient. Wan was also the recipient of the University Book Prize and Faculty Book Prize.

Other awards given by the university include the Rector's Gold Medal Award, Chancellor's Award and a Co-curriculum Prize.

For details, call: 03-42892000 or log on to: [www.kuim.edu.my](http://www.kuim.edu.my)

