Mara Education Fair has it all
Opportunities abound for those seeking to further their studies. >S14

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KUCHING: Many students who received their SPM results last month are now taking the next big step in their lives: choosing the right career path.

Happening from May 11 to May 12 at Permata Carpark, the Mara Education Carnival 2012 is in town to help students answer the multitude of questions they have regarding tertiary education, as well as to provide more information regarding obtaining financial assistance.

Organised since 2000, the education fair has become an annual event and serves as a platform for students throughout the state to acquire the information needed regarding furthering their studies not just in Sarawak, but in Peninsular Malaysia as well.

This year, the fair has a total of 59 educational institutions involved, with over 66 booths located throughout the venue.

Form 5 graduates of Maktab
Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) Kuching, Mohd Faridzhuan Firdaus and Ahmad Musthofal Karami, were there early yesterday to check out the various booths at the fair.

"Both of us are interested in taking up a course in engineering, so we thought we'd drop by to have a look at what sort of options are available to us here," said Faridzhuan.

"So far, we're a bit overwhelmed because there are so many colleges and universities to choose from," he said.

"Another good thing we realised from this fair is how flexible the student loans are, which will definitely be a great help to us," chimed in Ahmad.

The fair also prides itself on the variety of courses the participating institutions offer, encompassing the whole spectrum of arts and science subjects.

"I'm thinking of majoring in music, but at the same time, nursing sounds very appealing as well, so I'm glad that they have booths offering both at this fair," said Sekolah Seni Kuching graduate Ainul Winda Shaffiee.

A majority of the educational institutions taking part in the fair also offer courses which are under Mara's financial schemes, to provide convenience to students interested in obtaining a student loan.

Bank Simpanan Nasional sales manager Wan Alwi Wan Zen, who was there to attend to the bank's booth, said the fair was a good chance for students to understand and learn more, not just about the courses offered, but other aspects of tertiary education as well such as finances.

"We only just started two hours ago, but we have already got more than 20 names registered to learn more about our various schemes and offers.

"Such an event is a great place for us to get to know students better, learn what they want and see what we can offer them in return," he said.

Besides the usual big name universities like Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak, SEGi College and Inti College Sarawak, other established institutions such as Multimedia University, IKIP International College, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka and of course Kolej Profesional Mara are participating in the education fair.

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— MOHD FARIDZHUAN FIRDAUS

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**Eye-opener: A student listening to a consultant at the ICATS booth.**

**Future chefs: Students from Giat Mara displaying their culinary skills at the education carnival in Kuching.**
**Eager:** School-leavers registering themselves to obtain more information about a course at one of the 66 booths at the Mara Education Carnival yesterday.

**Helping out:** Inti College students promoting their college.
Dedicated: Bank Simpanan Nasional staff at their well-decorated booth.