UNIVERSITI Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) will offer 100 teachers the opportunity to continue their studies at the doctor of philosophy (PhD) level without needing to be present at the university, its vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Zaini Ujang said. He said the university would draw up a special programme that would enable the teachers to carry out their research at the laboratories of selected schools which would be upgraded soon. “For the moment, we have chosen several schools in Johor, Negri Sembilan, Perak, Selangor and Kuala Lumpur which we will announce soon,” he told reporters in Johor Baru yesterday. The UTM allocated RM80 million for the programme that would start in September and the selected schools would be allocated RM50,000 to upgrade their laboratories. Dr Zaini said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also the Education Minister, welcomed the move which was perceived as being able to provide an opportunity to the teachers to further their studies at a higher level. Earlier, Zaini represented UTM in signing the memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, which was represented by its secretary-general, Datuk Zoal Azha Yusof to forge strategic cooperation in various fields. — Bernama