Doctorate studies for top teachers

ZAZALI MUSA

JOHOR BARU: The first batch of 100 teachers from five top performing secondary schools in the country will be selected to undergo their doctorate (PhD) studies this year.

The teachers are from schools in the Federal Territory, Johor, Perak, Negri Sembilan and Selangor will start the programme in September.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Zaini Ujang said the university would act as the programme's implementer by outlining the studies' modules for the teachers.

"Five teachers will be placed at each school which will become a laboratory without them having to go to UTM," he said.

Dr Zaini was speaking after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry represented by its secretary-general Datuk Zoal Azha Yusof.

He said the university's professors would regularly visit them at the respective schools to mentor the teachers throughout their studies and oversee the progress made by them.

Dr Zaini said the university would allocate RM50,000 from its research fund to each school for the upgrading of its laboratory.

"Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (the Education Minister) is really excited on the project and now the ball is in the teacher's court," he added.

Dr Zaini said many of the teachers did not really looking forward to do their PhD studies after finding out that the programme would be conducted in schools instead of UTM or even overseas.

He said the university wanted to change the perception that PhD studies have to be conducted only at universities as UTM itself has similar programmes at work places.

"Presently, we have senior executives doing their PhD at the multinational corporations and government-linked companies without them having to leave their work places," said Dr Zaini.

Done deal: Dr Zaini Ujang (right) with Zoal showing the signed documents after both parties signed the Memorandum of Understanding at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Skudai Campus in Johor Baru, Johor.