941 graduates at USM convocation today

GEORGE TOWN: A total of 941 graduates of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) will receive their scrolls at the university's 45th convocation which will begin today. USM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Omar Osman said 10 of them were the first batch of students in USM's new post-graduate programmes, namely Masters in Counseling, Masters in Social Science and Masters of Science.

"At this year's convocation, two individuals will receive an honorary degree and the Professor Emeritus title, 710 will receive their doctorate and master's degrees and 229 will receive the Bachelor's degrees," he told a press conference here yesterday.

He said USM crystallography expert, Prof Fun Hoong Kun, and the distinguished pioneer of distance education, Tan Sri Prof Emeritus Gajaraj Dhanarajan, would be conferred with the Honorary Doctorate of Education and the title of Professor Emeritus.

Omar said the convocation would be graced by Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail, who is also USM Chancellor.

Meanwhile, the recipient of the Masters of Science (Advanced Computer Network) degree, Norayu Abdul Talib, 30, said she never thought she would be the first to graduate from the programme.

The Penang-born graduate said the success would boost her spirit to pursue her doctorate degree in Computer Science.

For Cheah Mei Chan, 24, the feeling to be the first batch of students to complete the one and a half-year programme and graduate with Masters in Counseling degree was overwhelming.

"I'm so proud because we are the pioneers of this programme. We don't have seniors to guide us, so we have to depend on ourselves," she said, adding that she was looking forward to serve under the Women, Family and Community Development to help the underprivileged. — Bernama