Dr Zulkefli helms USM board of governors

FORMER Higher Education Ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Zulkefli A Hassan has been appointed the new board of governors chairman of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

His appointment is for a three-year term starting from April 1.

He replaces Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Mohamad Zawawi Ismail who was appointed as the board of directors chairman for Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

Dr Zulkefli, 60, was educated at SK Simpang Empat in Alor Setar, Kedah, and SM Sultan Abdul Halim in Jitra.

He obtained a bachelor’s degree in economics from Universiti Malaya followed by a master’s degree from Bradford University and a PhD from Manchester University, both in the United Kingdom.

He served at the Higher Education Ministry from 2005 until 2010 and held the position of secretary-general for almost five years.

Before that, he served in various positions with government agencies including the Finance Ministry, the Prime Minister’s Department as well as the Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Ministry.

Speaking at a press conference in USM yesterday, Dr Zulkefli said his presence here was to help lead the university to greater heights.

“I will utilise the experience gained during my service in the government to promote the university’s agenda,” he said.

Also present was vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Omar Osman who announced that 941 students were expected to receive their scrolls in conjunction with USM’s 45th convocation today.

“Besides that, we will also award Prof Dr Fun Hoong Kun and Tan Sri Datuk Emeritus Prof D. Gajaraj an Emeritus Professor and Honorary Doctorate in Education respectively,” said Dr Omar.

The convocation’s morning session will start at 10am while its evening session begins at 3pm.

Welcome aboard: Dr Zulkefli (with tie) talking with some of the students who will be graduating during USM’s 45th convocation scheduled to start today. Looking on is Prof Omar (right).