

Nursing a campus to excellence

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IPOH: With the ability to cater to 15,000 students, the Masterskill Nursing and Health Sciences College here is expected to address the shortage of nursing and healthcare professionals in the country.

Officially opened by Sultan Azlan Shah of Perak yesterday, the Ipoh campus, one of Masterskill Education Group's three nursing colleges, is not only the largest in the Masterskill stable but also one of the biggest in the Asia-Pacific region.

Masterskill Education Group chief executive officer Datuk Edmund Santhara said the setting up of the campus would help fulfil the need for nurses and allied healthcare professionals in the public and private sectors.

"As the nation faces a shortage of healthcare professionals, we have taken it upon ourselves to help redress this imbalance. This new campus will eventually cater to 15,000 students with hostel and staff housing facilities."

Its two other branch colleges are in Kota Baru and Ko-

ta Kinabalu. Its main campus, the Masterskill University College of Health Sciences, is in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur.

Present at the opening of the college at the IGB International Industrial Park were Raja Permaisuri Tuanku Bainun and the royal couple's daughter, Raja Datuk Seri Azureen, who is Masterskill University College chancellor.

The Ipoh campus, which started operating last June, is on 4ha of prime real estate here and has its own recreational facilities. From an initial intake of around 500 students, the college expects to reach the 3,000 mark by the end of the year.

Built at a cost of RM50 million, the campus offers six diploma programmes in nursing and allied health fields. By year-end, all 11 study fields offered at its main campus in Cheras will be available here.

These are nursing, environmental health, medical imaging, pharmacy, laboratory technology, physiotherapy, health informatics, healthcare, occupational safety and health, occupational therapy and paramedic science.

Santhara said Masterskill



Sultan Azlan Shah and Raja Permaisuri Tuanku Bainun looking at students of Masterskill College of Nursing and Health demonstrating nursing skills at the opening of the college in Ipoh yesterday. On the left is Masterskill Education Group CEO Datuk Edmund Santhara.

was planning to take in foreign students for the Ipoh campus. It will introduce 14 degree, three master's and one doctorate programmes next year.

"Today, when we all face economically-testing times, most students are looking for a career that is rewarding and in high demand. A career in nursing, or within the health-

care profession, offers them just that."

He added that Masterskill wanted to make nursing and healthcare education easily available at convenient loca-

tions nationwide.

Masterskill is planning to set up a branch college in Kuching and a university college-status campus in Pasir Gudang, Johor.