

Exploring emerging technologies

HAVING made impressive technological advances in recent decades, Spain is fast becoming a leader in innovation, generating advanced solutions in industries such as aerospace, renewable energies, water treatment, rail, biotechnology, industrial machinery and civil engineering.

The country is determined to deepen and intensify its productive specialisation in industries that depend on technology and innovation.

From that reason, the Malaysian and Spanish governments, represented by the Majlis Amanah Rakyat and Consulting and Technical Services S.A. respectively – had collaborated and founded the Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Spanish Institute (UniKL MSI).

Since 2002, UniKL MSI has incorporated technologies from Spain in various fields, especially in electronics, mechanical and manufacturing.

It is integrated into several courses offered by UniKL MSI in diploma, bachelor and A-Level programme.

The collaboration still holds firm today with more than 20 students continuing their studies in Spain yearly, after graduating from UniKL MSI's Pre-Spain A-Level Programme.

For that reason also, the Malaysia's Spanish ambassador Carlos Dominguez Diaz has paid a visit to UniKL MSI at Kulim Hi-Tech Park, Kedah, accompanied by Aula Cervantes Kuala Lumpur



Malaysia's Spanish ambassador Carlos Dominguez Diaz (fourth from left) receiving a souvenir from UniKL president Prof Datuk Dr Mazliham Mohd Su'ud (third from left) at the Pre-Spain Appreciation Ceremony, accompanied by Aula Cervantes Kuala Lumpur representative Mireia Moreno Maillo (right), UniKL MSI dean Prof Dr Abu Talib Othman (second from right) and representatives from Majlis Amanah Rakyat.

representative Mireia Moreno Maillo, UniKL president Prof Datuk Dr Mazliham Mohd Su'ud and UniKL MSI dean Prof Dr Abu Talib Othman.

The purpose of the visit was to award students the Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE) certificates in conjunction with the Pre-Spain Appreciation Ceremony.

It was also part of the ambassador's ongoing collaboration between the two countries to strengthen the engagement with the local universities.

Meanwhile, UniKL MSI aims to expand the potential in creating more collaboration with Spanish companies in Malaysia through industrial partnerships for mutual benefit.

The university has engaged with the Malaysian Spanish Chamber of Commerce and Industry (La Camara) to explore new opportunities for trade relationships as well as networking.

Apart from that, the collaboration was further extended by creating partnership projects or academic research with Spanish



UniKL MSI students of the Pre-Spain A-Level programme with the Spanish ambassador Carlos Dominguez Diaz and UniKL president Prof Datuk Dr Mazliham Mohd Su'ud (centre).

universities, including Spanish-spoken countries in Latin America.

A joint venture between UniKL MSI and the Spanish embassy is also anticipated in the near future to organise a meeting with Spanish companies in Malaysia to explore investment or business opportunities through business matching and networking.

This was followed by the Pre-Spain Appreciation Ceremony whereby Prof Mazliham said it was his privilege to welcome the ambassador to the university and later brought him up to date on the university's interest in maintaining a sustainable collaboration with Spain through various cultural and educational initiatives.

The Spanish ambassador expressed gratitude to UniKL for the opportunity to discuss potential collaborative projects in various domains, such as technology, economy and education.

In his speech, he mentioned that

one of the only two Spanish lecturers would be placed in UniKL MSI under the Academic Exchange Programme, highlighting the favourable relationship between the Spanish embassy and UniKL.

Furthermore, UniKL MSI will soon be appointed as the DELE examination centre for the northern region of Malaysia.

In this regard, Aula Cervantes Kuala Lumpur was present to offer support and guidance in exploring the language and its culture together with the embassy.

After awarding the DELE certificates to Pre-Spain students, who will be completing their studies at UniKL MSI and continue studying at various Spanish universities in September, the Spanish ambassador and other distinguished guests enjoyed a Pre-Spain student performance at UniKL MSI.

■ For details, look out for the advertisement in this *StarSpecial*.