

KUALA LUMPUR: A world-class college, in keeping with the Higher Education Ministry's target which promises excellent education opportunities, will be in operation in 2011.

The college, a 700-acre academic park, is a project under the Kuala Lumpur Education City which will be located in the vicinity of Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang.

The Royal Holloway University of London, the first international academic partner to sign a memorandum of understanding with KLEC yesterday, will be a part of the KLEC project.

The college is the first University of London branch campus to be set up in Asia and will offer many programmes.

Speaking on the initiative, KLEC Ventures Sdn Bhd group managing director Kahlil Anwar Kamal said the partnership with Royal Holloway is an important milestone for KLEC in promoting Malaysia as an international education hub in the Asia Pacific region.

To date, KLEC have signed two MOUs with two local education institutions and one with Microsoft Malaysia to setup the KLEC-Microsoft International school in KLEC.

The group is also looking at other foreign academic institutions from the US, Australia and New Zealand to be part of the college campus.

Meanwhile, Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said it is the ministry's aim to build world-class academic institutions.

"We are focused on improving the value of education in this country.

"We have to keep improving to ensure our universities gain a reputation overseas," he said.

He added that the ministry was looking at collaborating with foreign universities for research-based education.