

Boost for Asian e-education

JOINT EFFORTS:

The first Asia Cooperation Dialogue targets networks, funds

AHMAD FAIRUZ OTHMAN

KUWAIT

news@nst.com.my

THE setting up of the Asia e University (AeU) by Malaysia is an achievement among Asian nations as it offers joint education programmes for those living across the continent and beyond.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the university, which set up base in Kuala Lumpur five years ago, boasted 2,100 students from 20 countries and was a success story.

"Malaysia is a prime mover of e-education with the establishment of the Asia e University."

"It is regarded as successful among member nations of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue," he said af-

ter the opening of the first summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) here yesterday.

E-education is among the three areas undertaken by Malaysia in its role under this informal grouping of 32 Asian nations. The others are e-commerce and the setting up of an infrastructure fund.

The AeU had been a product of successful collaborations through the years between Malaysia and member nations of the ACD.

This grouping had been functioning as a ministerial meeting for the past 10 years before it upgraded itself to a full summit involving heads of government this year.

The ACD consists of Asean member nations as well as Japan, China, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said Malaysia would boost the role of AeU by establishing networks with other institutes of higher learning

"Malaysia is a prime mover of e-education with the establishment of the Asia e University."

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin



Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (centre) at the opening of the first summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue in Kuwait yesterday. Bernama pic

in and out of Asia.

"In a report on e-education, there is mention of the setting up of more networks with universities not

only within Asian nations but also with those outside of the ACD grouping.

"This means the scope would be

expanded and not limited to ACD member nations because of the various courses offered."

Muhyiddin said the ACD had also set up an Asian credit transfer system, which would benefit the AeU students. On the aspects of e-commerce and infrastructure fund, Muhyiddin said Malaysia hoped to offer its expertise, along with other

ACD member nations.

On the summit, Muhyiddin said a fund for socio-economic development among Asian nations had been proposed by the host nation, Kuwait.

Kuwait's Emir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, contributed US\$300 million (RM917 million) to kickstart the fund.