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## Academic Collaboration: **UMP Spreads Wings To The US**



**U**niversiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) spreads its wings to the United States of America when it sealed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Northern Illinois University (NIU) in Dekalb, Illinois, on November 22, 2010.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, signed the MoU on behalf of the Malaysian university whilst NIU was represented by its Provost/ Executive Vice-President, Raymond W Alden III.

The newly minted strategic relationship covers several areas of networking, including exploring the possibility of setting up of an engineering technology programme.

Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir elaborated that the discussions he had with the NIU Provost also revolved around students’ exchange and twinning programmes, short-term attachment of academic staff and students’ mobility.

“UMP will certainly benefit from this bilateral academic cooperation, especially so when tapping NIU’s vast experience in engineering technology programmes and sharing the exploration of new field of studies like environmental

studies, energy and sustainability, and nano-sciences,” he said.

Furthermore, the Vice-Chancellor said, the signing of the MoU has stamped a stronger foothold in the two universities’ collaborative efforts in computer science and technology programmes.

“This is also in line with the aspirations and initiatives of the Government of Malaysia to produce pragmatic engineers and technologists to meet current employment market demands,” Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir added.

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Meanwhile, Alden expressed high hopes that whatever has been discussed will materialize and prove beneficial for the two parties to the

signature.

“The MoU that we just signed will be a historic milestone in the international cooperation between our two academic institutions, especially in promulgating the fields of science and technology,” he emphasized.

Accompanying Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir on his visit to America were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz; Director of International Office, Dr Wan Norlidah Al-Qadri; and Senior Assistant Registrar from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor’s Office (Academic & International), Mohd Raizalhilmly Mohd Rais.

The UMP delegation took a guided tour to NIU’s College of Engineering & Engineering Technology, and attended a series of mutual discussions with NIU to form the initial networking strategies.