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## Confucius Institute to be set up in UMP

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Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has entered into an agreement with Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) that would pave the way for the establishment of Confucius Institute or Kong Zi Institute in Pahang.

This collaboration will benefit the university students as well as the local community who wish to learn more about the Chinese language and its culture.

UMP was represented by its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim while Confucius Institute by Hanban Deputy Director Zhao Guocheng Ang.

The exchange of the documents was held in Chengdu, China on December 5, 2018, in conjunction with the Confucius Institute 13<sup>th</sup> Conference.

Also present were Hanban Planning Division Director, Professor Wang Yong, Hebei University Committee Secretary, Professor Gui Jian, Hebei University International Relation Office Director, Professor Li Xiaoliu and UMP Mandarin Language and Cultural Centre (MLCC), Yong Ying Mei.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said the institute would play an important role in helping to enhance one's command in Mandarin and pave the way for more cultural exchange programmes between the two countries.

"In fact, we have already established good ties with Hebei University since 2011 and that there are 22 Mandarin language teachers here," he said.

Hebei University, a university in China, has been appointed by Hanban to work on establishing collaborations on the setting up of the institute.

To date, there are two institutes of higher learning in Malaysia that have set up Confucius Institute - Universiti Malaya (UM) and Segi University.