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> The government has chosen UUM to be the centre of excellence for golf. So we will try our level best to realise the government objective.
>
> *UM Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohamad Mustafa Ishak*

MOU with the Malaysian Golf Association (MGA) under which the MGA will identify young talents to be sent to the UUM academy, which on its part will do some research for the MGA.

MGA president Tan Sri Dato' Sri Anuwar Mohd Nor, said the UUM's academy would be a good opportunity for young Malaysian golfers to pursue their tertiary education locally.

"Among other things this MOU would help MGA undertake research into the diet, mental strength and other things that are so important to professional golfers," added the president.

Dr. Mustafa said, "We also plan to sign a similar MOU with Thailand's Rom Khamheng University which is quite advanced in this field. We have recruited a golf expert from New Zealand who has worked at Rom Kamheng."

Prof. Madya Azmi said, "Our mission is to position the academy as a recognised academic and training institution for golf management at international level and also to produce professional golfers."

To train and teach the practical side of the game, the academy already has its own 9-hole course which is also open to the public.

The academy considers itself lucky to have Rosni Wan Chik or 'Rock' as its golf coach. Rosni joined the academy with a Level III golf coaching qualification from the National Sports Council.

"My level III is like Ph D in golf coaching," said Rosni, who before this was coaching at Penang Golf & Country Resort.

Rosni was a tour player on the TDC Tour in the 80s. "I didn't win any title but come second several times," said Rosni.

Among his proteges are young PGM player Mohamad Azry Wahyuddin and Mohammad Afif Razif, champion of MGA's 2012 national trials and is now a member of MGA's national elite squad.

Golf Malaysia paid a visit to the academy recently and talked to some of the students who had just finished their day's training. They are Mohd Saifiehuddin bin Adli Azmi, 22, handicap 8; Reza Amirul Adib @ Redzuwan, 22, handicap 4; Muhammad Syazul Hakim bin Ngah Hassan, 19, handicap 3; Wafiyuddin, 21, handicap 0; Muhammad Al Azim bin Mohd Azmi, 19, handicap 6; and Aminul Azzat Abdul Bahar, 19, handicap 5.

All of them have already had some success in various competitions.

When asked about their future plans, the students were unanimous that before turning pro they must first get a degree.

The academy is offering or will be offering 3-year degree programmes in Business Administration, Tourism and Golf Management and Communication. Certification programmes in Course Marshaling, Coaching, Golf Club Management, Golf Rules & Etiquette and Golf Event Management and soon there will be courses in golf management right up to the MBA level.

Part time courses between two and three months are also conducted at weekends to cater for staff of golf clubs. ●

Students and teaching staff.

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