

Pact with Indian uni



Tarnjit (second from left) and Dr Bhat (third from right) signing the MoU. Looking on are Dharamjit and Kohilan (standing).

AIMING to produce more qualified health care professionals, Acumen Integrated Healthcare and Movement Science Academy (AIHMSA) recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Manipal University (Manipal), India.

Witnessed by Deputy Foreign Affairs, Minister A Kohilan Pillay, the agreement enables physiotherapy diploma holders to garner a degree through an 18-month programme at Manipal.

According to AIHMSA, the majority of physiotherapists in Malaysia are diploma-holders, although internationally, physiotherapy has reached postgraduate level.

There is a need for more qualified physiotherapists.

The government currently employs 645 physiotherapists, but there are vacancies for another 835 positions.

The academy offers a top-up path for exist-

ing diploma graduates to acquire a degree through a formula that complies with the Malaysian Qualifying Agency (MQA) standards.

Together with Manipal, the curriculum offered will enable diploma-holders to undergo a year of theoretical learning and a six-month internship to earn their Bachelor in Physiotherapy.

The academy's co-founder and director Tarnjit Kaur signed the MoU with International Programs registrar of Manipal, Dr H Vinod Bhat.

Its business development director Dharamjit Singh said that the academy is also planning to collaborate with other specialist organisations in Australia and the United States.

These specialisations will provide further exposure to allied health professionals in fields such as speech therapy, occupational therapy and geriatric care.