

## Workshop on Ethnic Integration in Public Universities

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2004, IPPTN and University Sains Malaysia, with the cooperation of the Department of Higher Education, held a workshop on ethnic integration in Public Universities study at Equatorial Hotel, Penang. Officiated by the Chief Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Y. Bhg. Dato' Dr. Mohd. Yahya Nordin, the workshop was intended to present major findings obtained from the study and to gather feedback from participants.

Participants comprised senior administrative staffs from various Institutions of Higher Learning, Ministry of Higher Education, National Unity Department, Ministry of Social and Women Development, Association of Private Learning Institutions and NGOs.

**Attentive....**workshop participants looking for effective solutions on ethnic polarisation among students.

The study, which involved 6,267 students from twelve public universities, found that on the whole ethnic integration existed among students of all races resulting from racial tolerance, understanding and respect. Nevertheless, it was also found that most students preferred to be among people of their own race and university administration was said to be among the contributing factors.

- Reported by Sharifah Ismail



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mansor Mohd. Noor**  
(Research Leader)



**Serious...** Dato' Dr. Mohd. Yahya Nordin discussing with Prof. Morshidi Sirat.



**What do you think?...** serious discussion during coffee break

# The South Zone Undergraduate Colloquium

On 21<sup>st</sup> August 2004, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia in Skudai, Johor, organised a one-day colloquium called *Kolokium Mahasiswa Zon Selatan (KOMSIS)*. Officiated by the special advisor for *Majlis Tindakan Ekonomi Negara (MTEN)*, YB Dato' Rahmah Binti Hj. Mohd Nor, the colloquium aimed at instilling and developing undergraduates' awareness about their roles and responsibilities today to the university, religion, race and nation in their pursuit to become individuals with excellence, glory and distinction.

Among the invited speakers were the Ministry of Higher Education parliamentary secretary, YB Datuk Dr. Adham Baba and IPPTN's Associate Fellow, Dr. Munir Shuib.

Datuk Dr Adham Baba, in his paper on the directions of higher education in Malaysia, said that undergraduates needed to change their mindset

in order to be internationally competitive. The thinking in the workplace, he reiterated, has shifted from P-worker (Product worker) to K-worker (Knowledge worker) and is now moving towards what he called "K-cooperation worker", a concept in which individuals of different disciplines and background share their knowledge and expertise towards a common goal.

Dr. Munir Shuib, in his paper, addressed the issue of unemployment in Malaysia. According to him, the problem of unemployment in Malaysia currently was not serious but must not be ignored, as it affected not just graduates but also the nation as a whole socially, economically and politically. Citing recent findings from studies conducted by IPPTN, he reiterated unemployment was a multi-dimensional issue; its causes and effects involved

various parties including Institutions of Higher Learning, government agencies, NGOs, graduates as well as employers.

The colloquium ended with a discussion session among undergraduate leaders and participants on challenges faced by undergraduates pertaining to globalisation.

▪ Reported by Nor Azreen Zainul



**Dr. Munir Shuib:** presented a paper on unemployment issue.

## PUBLICATIONS



IPPTN has just published its fourth monograph entitled 'Kemasukan Pelajar ke Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Awam 2000-2004: Deskripsi Pola dan Trend Mengikut Negeri'. The monograph is jointly written by Profesor Morshidi Sirat, Assoc. Prof. Ruslan Rainis, and Dr. Tarmiji Masron. It is based on the information obtained from Higher Education Department, Ministry of Higher Education. This write-up will be useful in helping Public Institutions of Higher Learning to ascertain their institutional image and design suitable orientational package for their students.

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