

International school in Negri Sembilan seals deal with China college

By **SARBAN SINGH**

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MATRIX Global Schools (MGS), one of the fastest growing private and international schools in Negri Sembilan, has added another feather to its cap following the signing of a collaboration with a reputable college from China to provide an 18-month preparatory programme for students from the republic.

Through the collaboration, at least 300 students aged between 15 and 17 years from the Shanghai Zhangjiang Specialized College are expected to enrol for the programme for a better grasp of English, Science and Math, in stages at MGS beginning March next year.

Matrix Concepts Holdings Bhd (MCHB) group managing director Datuk Lee Tian Hock said what made it even sweeter was that the Chinese decided to pick MGS after having visited about 20 such schools in the country.

"The Chinese delegation eventually decided that MGS had the best facilities.

"They were impressed with the quality of our education and are confident that MGS would offer the students premium value for their money," he said at a ceremony to ink the deal in Seremban recently.

MCHB owns MGS, which comprises the Matrix International Pre-School, Matrix International School and Matrix Private School.

MGS opened its doors in September 2014 and already has an enrolment of 650 students.

It expects to have at least 1,000 students by next year, which is higher than its initial target of 800.

Modelled after the 130-year-old Ellesmere College, a prestigious British residential school, the MGS campus has full fledged facilities equivalent to most universities including auditoriums, lecture theatres, music rooms, recording studios and a performing arts centre.

It sits on an 8ha piece of land and cost RM145mil to build, with a capacity to enrol up to 2,500 students.

Lee said under the collaboration, Shanghai Zhangjiang Specialized College will send 50 students to MGS next year, followed by another 100 in 2017 and 150 in 2018.

With the arrangement, MGS has become the only Asian destination for students from Shanghai Zhangjiang Specialized College.

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Datuk Lee Tian Hock

The college, which was established in 2002, also sends its students for similar programmes to Britain, the United States and Italy.

Lee said the Chinese students would be able to choose to either continue with their A-levels at MGS after completing the programme, or return home and enrol at universities there.

"If they choose to remain here, the students would have an option to pursue programmes which are offered and recognised throughout the Commonwealth," he said.

Shanghai Zhangjiang Specialized College OCS High School Div vice-president David Wei Wei said the collaboration was to take advantage of China's "One Belt One Road" policy – a development strategy and framework which focuses on connectivity and cooperation among countries.

"We chose MGS as our partner because we saw the best here," he said, expressing confidence that the number of students from the college to MGS would increase significantly in years to come.

Wei said he had travelled extensively in Malaysia, and was impressed with what he saw at MGS.

"MGS has the best, both in terms of the hardware and software. We expect this collaboration to continue for a long time," he said.

United Chinese School Committees' Association (Dong Zong) chairman Datuk Lau Lee Ming who witnessed the event commended both parties on the collaboration.

"Such programmes in this era of globalisation is important as it allows the students to gain more exposure," he said, adding that this would also promote Malaysia as a regional education hub.



Lee (second from left) exchanging documents with Wei. Also present were (from left) Matrix Global Schools chief Felix E.B. Lee, Lau and Shanghai Zhangjiang Specialized College principal Jesson Zhang Jie. — UU BAN/ The Star