

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

It was indeed a meeting of the best minds of education as a group of distinguished local and world class educationists converged at the Crown Princess Hotel, Kuala Lumpur during the International Education Conference on 21 and 22 June recently, jointly organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) and Sunway College.

The Conference was officiated by the Minister of Education, YB Dato' Amar Sulaiman Haji Daud who was greeted by ASLI's Executive

The Education Ministry's Director General, Tan Sri Wan Mohd Zahid Mohd Noordin stressed on the need for a paradigm shift in Malaysia's education vision which should be mission-driven rather than rule-driven. New concepts in education were also deliberated upon as representatives from Australia, United Kingdom and United States shared their views on various factors which could lead the way towards the internationalisation of Malaysian education. Many of the speakers were academicians from the

industry.

The Associate Director of Sunway College, Ms Elizabeth Lee chaired the fourth session on "Exporting Education - The Wave of the Future."

The Conference which attracted much interest from the local, as well as foreign media concluded with a most interesting forum on issues that would lead the way towards the regionalisation and internationalisation of Malaysian education. The panellists raised



(L-R) Dato' Dr Jeffrey Cheah, YB Dato' Amar Sulaiman Haji Daud, Michael Yeoh

Director, Michael Yeoh and Founder of Sunway College, Dato' Dr Jeffrey Cheah upon his arrival.

In his opening speech, which was addressed to a local and international audience of about eighty, Dato' Amar informed that a bill to allow for universities to set up branches here will be tabled in the Parliament by the end of the year. Dato' Cheah had earlier on presented the welcoming address.

twining partners of Sunway College. These included University of Western Australia, Flinders University, University of Waikato, Leicester University and Western Michigan University. The session on the Open Learning concept drew much interest from the delegates as did the views of prominent educationist Tan Sri Dato' Dr Awang Had Salleh on how the corporate sector could contribute to the education

some thought-provoking points on the challenge currently faced by the local education industry as well as the opportunities and available options. Most felt that although Malaysia has the makings of a regional education centre, much need to be done by the government in partnership with the private sector to attain this. The conference was declared close by Deputy Minister of Education, Dato' Dr Fong Chan Onn.