



27 NOV, 2019

## Distance learning gaining traction

The Sun, Malaysia

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**GEORGE TOWN:** With costs of tertiary education escalating, more students are seeking cheaper but innovative ways to acquire a certificate and skills.

"This is where Wawasan Open University (WOU), with its distance learning concept and courses relevant to the modern job market, comes in," said WOU vice-chancellor and chief executive Prof Dr Lily Chan.

She said WOU is expecting a higher student intake as it is generating more interest now.

WOU's 10th convocation ceremony on Dec 7 and 8 will see 740 graduates receiving their scrolls - the highest number for the 13-year-old

university, which has regional learning centres in Penang, Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur, Johor Baru and Kuching.

"We noticed a marked (increase in) interest in our education system as conventional universities are getting expensive worldwide. Now, we see students willing to work and study rather than study first before working," said Chan.

She said WOU is excited about filling the gap for working adults keen on institutions which offer distance and flexible learning packages.

She said by the first quarter of next year,

WOU is expected to unveil a new set of degree courses which are associated with the new set of jobs in the Industrial Revolution 4.0 era such as automation and the Internet of Things.

Students can expect to be offered internships within the first year of their academic programme.

Chan told a joint press conference with WOU Board of Governors chairman Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon that the university is keen to develop innovative programmes to meet the skills set needed for the modern workplace.

Koh said WOU inspires its students, who are aged between 22 and 76, to become exemplary.

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### SUMMARIES

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