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**Light moment:** Mahdzir (third from right) chats with teachers after the opening ceremony.

## New sparkle to partnership

ONE of Universiti Tenaga Nasional's (Uniten) corporate social responsibility activities has taken on a brand new shine.

In this case, its adopted school programme known as School Partnership in Harnessing Innovation and Nurturing Excellence has been renamed Shine@Uniten.

In announcing this, Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said having the 20 schools under the programme would allow the university to gather input from school counsellors and teachers for overall education development.

"Hopefully, this smart partnership will benefit the schools as well as Uniten in continuously producing excellent graduates," he said when opening the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE) International Conference on Teaching and Learning in Education (ICTLE 2016) recently.

Mahdzir said a study conducted by the United States' Pew Research Centre found that 77% of teachers agree that the Internet had a "mostly positive" impact on students' research work.

"(But) 87% of them (also) felt that technologies were creating an 'easily distracted' generation with short attention spans," he said.

In this regard, Mahdzir added

that it was the responsibility of educators and teachers to ensure future generations become responsible information consumers.

Shine@Uniten will see Uniten conducting talks and seminars in the selected schools, among other things.

He commended Uniten for Shine@Uniten, and encouraged government-linked companies, the private sector and non-governmental organisations to do likewise.

"The ever-changing market and demands of the new world order require critical minds, versatility and adaptability."

ICTLE 2016 is jointly organised by Uniten's Teaching and Learning Centre and the Malaysian chapter of IEEE's Education Society.

The conference serves as a platform for higher education practitioners, scholars and specialists from around the globe to discuss current education practices.

On the freeze on new medical courses and institution at least until 2021, Mahdzir said the Health Ministry, the Higher Education Ministry, the Public Service Department and other relevant bodies should gather to discuss the matter.

"There should be a soft landing," he said without elaborating.

— By REBECCA RAJAENDRAM