PERAK is set to see a boost in its education as well as hospitality and tourism industry through a collaboration between UCSI University and Jumbo Straits Sdn Bhd (JS).

It will see the development of UCSI University’s fifth campus and its first to be built in the education hub of Bandar Seri Iskandar in Perak.

An agreement was signed on Thursday at the university’s Kuala Lumpur campus, witnessed by Perak Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir.

Bandar Seri Iskandar is the biggest township development project in central Perak encompassing an education hub, residential properties, and leisure and entertainment facilities.

UCSI Group founder and chairman Datuk Peter Ng said the partnership would generate more skilled as well as specialised human resources for the hospitality and tourism sector to meet the needs of this growing industry.

“Tourism is a multibillion-ringgit industry, which has been earmarked by the Perak government as one of the key sectors with excellent growth potential. This purpose-built campus will house a boutique hotel that will serve as an in-house training centre for students under our Hospitality and Tourism Management Faculty as well as other state-of-the-art facilities and a hostel,” he said.

UCSI University vice-chancellor and president Prof Datuk Dr Khalid Yusoff said the industry was constantly on the lookout for skilled employees.

“Higher education institutions need to step up efforts to cater to this increasing demand,” he said.

“UCSI University has a long and proven track record in this field.

“We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the hospitality and tourism industry and to Perak through the new campus at Bandar Seri Iskandar.”

Upon completion, the campus can cater to more than 5,000 people and is expected to attract students from the northern states of Penang, Perlis and Kedah.
One for the album: Ng (left) exchanging the agreement for UCSI University to build a new campus in Perak with Jumbo Straits CEO Sunny Yee (right) as Dr Zambry (second from right) and Dr Khalid (second from left) look on.