

Mexico book launched

ZULITA MUSTAFA
zulita@nst.com.my

WIDER PERSPECTIVE:

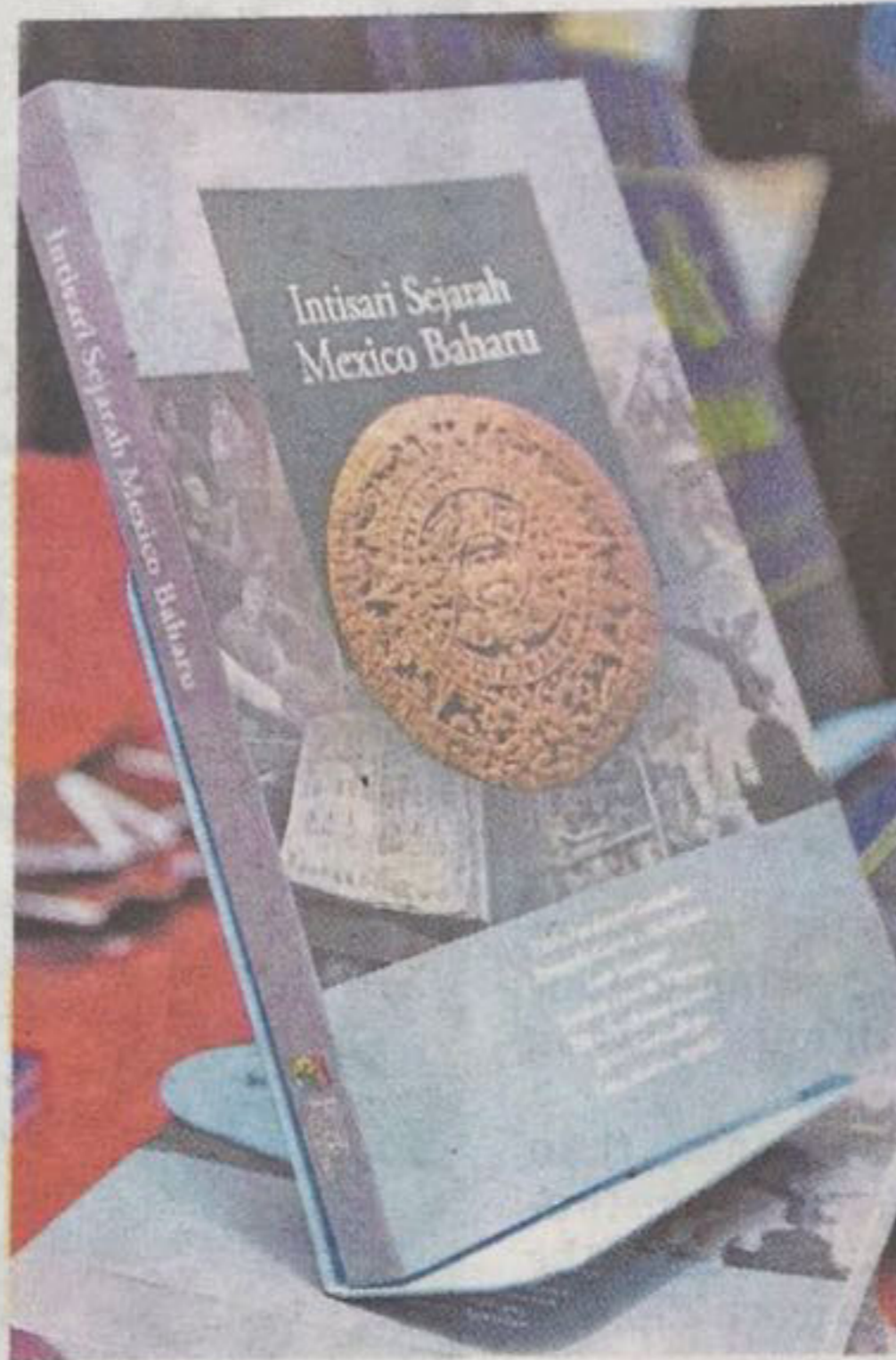
Team of translators get together to write *Intisari Sejarah Mexico Baru*

UNIVERSITI Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) has recently launched a book entitled *Intisari Sejarah Mexico Baru*, a translated version of *New Compact History of Mexico*, published by El Colegio de Mexico (Colmex).

Coordinated by the Centre for Latin American Studies, the book was written by a team of translators from the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Pusat Citra Universiti and School of Language and Linguistics.

The first version of *Compact History of Mexico* was published by Colmex in 1973 before it was translated into 15 languages which then contributed to the fundamental understanding of Mexico in the world.

The translated version will be a tool to broaden Malaysians' knowledge and understanding of Mexico's origins; heirs of important ancient civilisations and European culture, which evolved in a complex historical process that crafted a modern and democratic multicultural nation.



The newly launched "*Intisari Sejarah Mexico Baru*".

It was a complete but simple and synthesised work that proved useful for teaching, reference and dissemination among the public.

After three decades, Colmex started preparing the *New Compact History of Mexico* for a modern vision and wider coverage.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh launched the event. Also present was UKM vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Noor Azlan Ghazali.

In his speech, Idris emphasised on internationalisation of education as one of the important strategies the ministry

is pursuing.

He added that the launch of the book is a sterling example of using multidisciplinary and multilingual approaches through a collegiate effort in getting the *New Compact History of Mexico* translated into Bahasa Melayu.

"Indeed, translation work is important because we will be able to reach a wider audience. I hope greater efforts will be made in the future to increase the presence of Latin American students in Malaysia, to train staff in both countries and to see more sustainable and greater collaboration between both countries," Idris said.

The collaboration between UKM and Colmex started in 2003 when Institute of Ethnic Studies director Professor Datuk Dr Shamsul Amri visited Colmex. Thirteen years later that initial visit has brought about many academic collaborative activities such as the UKM Translation Series through IKMAS initiatives to translate books from Latin America.

Noor Azlan said translation is important for the exchange of ideas between cultures and growing globalisation has made translation even more important.

"It is the work of translators that will make it feasible for all of us to access knowledge and to grasp a better understanding of other cultures through histories written by well-known authors from different parts of the globe in their native language."

He added that in the academic world, the understanding of history provides the basis of knowledge in exploring interdisciplinary research.

"Written in one's native language, a lot of effort is needed to translate these written histories in a language that is understood by a wider scope of readers," he added.