Indiana University administrators and Malaysian dignitaries formalized a cooperative agreement between IUPUI and Tenaga Nasional Berhad on May 6. Seated (left to right) are Vice President and IUPUI Chancellor Gerald Bepko, IU President Thomas Ehrlich, wife of the Malaysian Prime Minister Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd. Ali, Executive Chairman of Tenaga Nasional Berhad Tan Sri Dato' Ani bin Arope, and Tenaga Company Secretary Dato' Mahmud Badri bin Haji Basir. Witnessing the event are (standing, left to right) Syed Kamaruzaman bin Syed Kabeer, Rector of Tenaga Nasional Berhad Training Institute, and Dr. Amir Basha b. Mohd. Ismail, Head of Tenaga Nasional Berhad's School of Engineering.

IUPUI Forges Agreement with Malaysia's Tenaga Nasional Institute

On May 6, IUPUI's School of Engineering and Technology signed a cooperative agreement with the newly formed Tenaga Nasional Institute of Engineering and Technology in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Institute is the educational training facility of Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), the company which provides 97% of Malaysia's electric power. Originally a state-owned corporation, TNB has been moving toward privatization under the country's "Vision 2020" development plan, a far-reaching initiative of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honorable Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, to make Malaysia a completely industrialized nation by the year 2020. The engineering institute is one of three such institutes being developed to play a crucial role in Malaysia's educational and manpower training goals of Vision 2020.

The formal signing took place in Bloomington during Commencement Week. Tenaga signatories to the agreement were Tan Sri Dato' Ani bin Arope, Executive Chairman of Tenaga Nasional Berhad and a member of IU's International Council, and TNB's Company Secretary, Dato' Mahmud Badri bin Haji Basir. Signing for Indiana University were President Thomas Ehrlich and IUPUI Vice President and Chancellor Gerald Bepko. Present at the occasion was Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd. Ali, wife of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, who received an Indiana University honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at IU-B's May 7 commencement ceremony (see story, page 7).

The IUPUI-Tenaga agreement, which runs through December 1996, was negotiated over the past nine months by officials of Indiana University and their Malaysian counterparts. The IU team, under the leadership of Alfred Potvin, Dean of IUPUI's School of Engineering and Technology, included Oner Yurtseven, Associate Dean of Academic Programs at SET, and Timothy Diemer, Director of Administration of IU's ITM/MUCIA Cooperative Program in Malaysia, located on the Bloomington campus. Under the terms of the agreement, the IUPUI School of Engineering and Technology will be assisting in the development of a two-year
The occasion of the May 6 signing ceremony was made even more auspicious with the arrival that evening of the Prime Minister of Malaysia and his delegation. A special reception was held to welcome these distinguished Malaysian guests to the Bloomington campus (see story, page 7). Pictured at the reception are H.E. Dato' Abdul Majid Mohamed, Malaysia’s Ambassador to the U.S. (center), with Tan Sri Dato' Ani bin Arope (right), executive chairman of Tenaga Nasional Berhad, and his wife, Puan Sri Sainah Ahmad.

William Plater, Associate Vice Chancellor of IUPUI, in a discussion with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honorable Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad.

preparatory program in engineering at the Malaysian institute. "After the first two years of instruction," Yurtseven explained, "the Tenaga students will come to IUPUI to complete their degrees." In discussing the new agreement, Diemer observed that this marks "the second time that an IU and IUPUI curriculum has been exported to Malaysia"—the first such program being the highly successful nine-year old cooperative program between IU and Institut Teknologi MARA (ITM), known as the ITM/MUCIA Cooperative Program in Malaysia.

Under the terms of the Tenaga agreement, the IUPUI School of Engineering and Technology will provide an IUPUI undergraduate curriculum and the faculty to teach it for the new institute. Dean Yurtseven has already been appointed as Provost of the program. In addition to being the chief academic administrator, he will also do some teaching. Several IUPUI faculty are being recruited to begin work by the institute's July opening. Enrollment is to begin with fifty students, with twenty-five each in the school’s electrical and mechanical engineering programs. In December, fifty more students will join the program, with one hundred students to be added each subsequent year.

Dean Yurtseven foresees Indiana University's new partnership with Tenaga as providing not only enrollment gains for IUPUI's School, but also important financial, research, and cultural advantages. "There is a great deal we can learn from them, culturally and technologically," he observed. "They are doing some innovative things with the U.S. companies there, and we will have an opportunity to add to our own knowledge." And the Tenaga program will be a significant asset to IUPUI's new Center for Southeast Asia.