

KUTKM helps develop technopreneurs

Archival News | New Straits Times | 09/10/2004 | Author: A. Hafiz Yatim

KOLEJ Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia produces graduates who mix engineering or biotechnology skills with entrepreneurial and management skills. A. HAFIZ YATIM writes.

KOLEJ Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia (KUTKM) helps the country to produce 'technopreneurs' who blend engineering or information technology or biotechnology skills with entrepreneurial and management skills.

This can be seen with the formation of the five-month-old Institute of Technology Management and Entrepreneurship headed by its dean, Professor Dr Salleh Yahya.

Salleh said technopreneurs were necessary for a budding developing country like Malaysia where professionals like engineers or IT graduates could possess entrepreneurial skills.

"This is necessary as engineers or IT or biotechnology graduates know their role at their workplace but may lack management and entrepreneurial skills.

"At the same time, managers can head engineering or IT firms but may lack knowledge in such specialised skills. Hence, by equipping engineers or IT personnel with management and entrepreneurship skills it will help optimise their background to manage an organisation," he said.

He added despite the institute's infancy, it had produced its first journal, Journal of Technology Management and Entrepreneurship.

He said the journal would serve as an academic reference for technopreneurs.

He added the institute had locals and foreigners doing their master's and doctorates programme either by research or courses in Master of Science in Technology Management or Entrepreneurship, or Human Resource Management while the Doctorates are for the Technology Management, Entrepreneurship, Quality Management and Human Resource Management.

He added that for next year, five new master's programmes were planned through course work: Master in Technology Management, Master in Technopreneurship, Master Human Resource Management, Master of Industrial Leadership, Masters in Industrial Counselling and Master of Engineering Management.

Meanwhile, the university's director of corporate and international relations Associate Professor Dr Mohd Ridzuan Nordin said the university's emphasis was on practice and application.

"This means the university will help meet the human resource for industry.

"Students are also attached to industries and this practical training helps them gain jobs," he said, adding the university had good relationships with industries and it would like to bring the 'industry to the classroom' to better equip the students. Mohd Ridzuan added recognising industrial needs, the university had similar equipment to what the industry had.

He said industries could also use facilities at the university to do joint research to resolve industrial problems. "The university wants its facilities and also its academic staff and students to participate in such

research."

He said the university also hoped that by 2010, 50 per cent of its academic staff would have doctorates.

It has five faculties: Electrical Engineering, Electronic and Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering and Information and Communication Technology.

On developments of the permanent campus in Durian Tunggal, he said 50 per cent of the university's operation would come from the permanent campus next year and some of its staff were expected to move to 23,225-square-metre campus beginning this month.

(END) Source : New Straits Times

