

□ features

Surat Khabar: Utusan
Tajuk: KUKTEM employs hands-on approach for undergrads
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KUKTEM employs hands-on approach for undergrads

KUANTAN - Without much fanfare, a university college has started its operations here early this year with the objective of producing highly skilled manpower to further catalyse the country's economic growth.

The pioneer batch of 400 Kolej Universiti Kejuruteraan dan Teknologi Malaysia (KUKTEM) students will begin their 2002/2003 academic session end of this month.

KUKTEM Rector Prof Dr Abu Azam Md Yassin said the university college would produce graduates not only highly skilled in engineering and technology, but also sufficiently equipped with the "hands-on" knowledge in their respective fields.

The concept to be introduced by KUKTEM differed from that being currently practised in other local universities, Prof Abu Azam told Bernama in an interview.

"Other universities generally focused on theory work. We also have this but our focus is on skills development," said Prof Abu Azam who was formerly with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) in Skudai, Johor.

He said in the other universities, the academic module comprised between 60 and 70 per cent theory work with the remaining on practical work but in KUKTEM it was the other way round.

Several industries based here have expressed their willingness to accommodate KUKTEM's students for practical training, he said.

Prof Abu Azam however pointed out that KUKTEM was not relying on the industries to provide the practical work as the university college would provide adequate facilities for the purpose.

He expressed confidence that KUKTEM's graduates would not have difficulties in the job market as they would have adequate knowledge and skills as demanded by the industrial sector.

Prof Abu Azam said KUKTEM was recognised by the Malaysian Engineers Council as the body was directly involved in drawing out the university college's curriculum.

KUKTEM's graduates would also receive the Malaysian Vocational Training Certificate according to their academic achievement.

He said the university college offered three diploma and four first degree programmes.

The diploma courses are in engineering technology (industrial electronics), engineering technology (process technology) and technology (software technology) while the bachelor's degree programmes are in engineering technology (applied electronics), engineering technology (chemical engineering), technology (computer system and network) and technology (software engineering).

He also said as KUKTEM's RM800-million campus in Kuala Pahang, Pekan was due for completion only after the next four years, the university college had to operate temporarily at UTM's former campus here.

He said KUKTEM was expected to use the UTM campus for some six months as it planned to look for a temporary site to house its students, expected to reach 4,000 by next year.

The Kuala Pahang campus is expected to accommodate some 10,000 students. - Bernama