

SULTAN OF PAHANG'S BIRTHDAY

Kuktem's hands-on goal

WITH the goal of producing highly-skilled manpower to enhance the country's economic growth, Kolej Universiti Kejuruteraan dan Teknologi Malaysia (Kuktem), a university college, has begun operations in Kuantan since early this year.

Kuktem Rector Professor Dr Abu Azam Md Yassin said it would produce graduates not only skilled in engineering and technology, but also equipped with "hands-on" knowledge in their fields.

Being the first university in Pahang, Kuktem is a technical university with international standards based on the development of human resources and technology.

This, he said, was relevant to the needs of the chemical, petrochemical, natural resources, manufacturing and automotive industries.

Kolej Universiti Kejuruteraan dan Teknologi Malaysia (Kuktem) is a technical university with international standards based on the development of human resources and technology. **JASON GERALD** writes.

Kuktem offers three diplomas and four first-degree programmes.

The diploma courses are in engineering technology (industrial electronics), engineering technology (process technology) and technology (software technology).

As for the first-degree programmes, Kuktem offers bachelor's degree programmes in engineering technology (applied electronics), engineering technology (chemical engineering), technology (computer system and network) and technology (software engineering).

"The Higher Education Committee of the Education

Ministry had in March approved the establishment of five faculties: Electronic and Electrical Engineering Technology, Chemical and Natural Resources Engineering, Computer Systems and Software Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Civil Engineering and Natural Resources.

"There would be another four faculties and two campus which would commence operations in 2005. The four faculties are Manufacturing Engineering, Industrial Science, Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering, and Technology Management, Social Science and Pasca Degree," he said.



MANY CHOICES: Kuktem offers three diplomas and four first-degree programmes.

The pioneer batch of 310 students are placed at the temporary campus (the former Universiti Teknologi Malaysia campus) in Indera Mahkota.

"In May, we will relocate all the students and our operations to another temporary campus in MEC City in Jalan Gambang, which can accommodate 3,500 students. "All of the students will be

placed in hostels at the MEC City temporary campus before we move into Kuktem's RM800-million campus on a 720ha area in Kuala Pahang, Pekan, in four years' time," he said.

Once completed, the campus would have 5,000 students but the figure is expected to double by 2010.

The concept introduced by Kuktem differs from that

practised in other local universities.

"Other universities focus on theory. We also have this but our focus is on skills development. In other universities, the academic module comprises between 60 and 70 per cent theory work with the remaining on practical work, but in Kuktem it is the other way round.

Although several industries in Kuantan have expressed their willingness to accommodate Kuktem's students for practical training, Kuktem is not relying on them.

This was because the it had adequate facilities for the purpose, he said.

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.