



61 FKP STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM MAI APPRENTICE PROGRAMME

Student's Activities

About sixty-one undergraduates from Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering (FKP) recently completed phase 1 of the Malaysia Automotive Institute (MAI)'s Automotive Graduate Apprenticeship Programme.

Conducted in collaboration with MAI beginning in January, the successful apprentices will next proceed to do their industrial training at the various local automotive companies.

The four months internship will see multi-faceted industry participation, the likes of Sipro Plastic Industries Sdn.. Bhd., Permintex Sanko Technologies Sdn.. Bhd., Delloyd Ventures Bhd., Burnmark Industries Sdn.. Bhd., Autokeen Sdn.. Bhd., Miyazu (M) Sdn. Bhd., APM Plastic Sdn.. Bhd., Ingress Corporation Bhd., Sapura Group of Companies, Sugihara (Malaysia) Sdn.. Bhd.. and WSA Engineering Sdn.. Bhd..

A certificate presentation ceremony was held to mark the completion of the apprenticeship. The Deputy Minister of International Trade & Industry, Dato'



Jacob Dungau Sagan, graced the event attended by MAI Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Madani Sahari; and UMP Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Students' Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin.

According to Dato' Jacob, with the collaboration between the institute of higher education and industries, he believed UMP will be the catalyst to the Government's efforts to produce 5700 competent engineers by the year 2015.

Under such collaboration with MAI, third-year UMP-FKP undergraduates were given the opportunity to enroll in an apprenticeship programme focusing on MoUld Engineering (Plastic Industry), Die Engineering (Metal Industry) and Lean Manufacturing Systems.

Meanwhile, MAI CEO Madani explained that the apprenticeship programme was set forth to bridge the



gap between the skilled engineers that academia were producing and the specific skills that the national automotive industry needed.

Graduate-apprentice was given an all-encompassing holistic programme, complete with soft skills courses, exposure to corporate culture and practical on-the-job training.

The apprenticeship programme comprised three phases, said Professor Dr Yuserrie. "In the first four months of Phase 1, undergraduates are exposed to the workings of the automotive industry, relevant skills and corporate culture, involving the learning of academic subjects taught at the university by industrial trainers, coordinated by MAI.

"Phase 2 of the programme is the industrial attachment where students will spend another four months gaining invaluable experience working with the related local automotive manufacturing companies."

Meanwhile, Professor Dr Yuserrie said Phase 3, which is set to commence this September, will see apprentice embarking on industrial projects assigned by the organizations they trained with.

At this juncture, the students' apprenticeship will be divided into attending lectures on campus and working on their projects with their respective companies.

To date, this apprenticeship programme has trained a total of 120 undergraduate engineers from Universiti Teknologi MARA and UMP.

MAI endeavored to extend this programme to include all engineering schools across the country in the hope that such programme will help produce technically skilled engineers, who in turn will boost the competitiveness of the local automotive industry.