

UMP AND 3 FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES SHARED EXPERTISE IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY



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Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and three other foreign universities - Iwate University of Japan, Hanbat University of Korea, Dang Liang University of China, pooled together their expertise in manufacturing industry involving the mold, die and casting technology and took part in the URR Global Human Development Programme for Asian Manufacturing Industry 2013 in Iwate University of Japan on February 26, 2013.

The programme was officially launched by Iwate University President, Professor Katsumi Fujii.

UMP was represented by Deputy Dean of Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering, Dr. Ahmad Razlan Yusoff, lecturer Mohd Zairulnizam Mohd Zawawi and two final-year undergraduates, Engku Erysyd Engku Abas and Farah Amira Mohd Ghazali.

Dr. Ahmad Razlan said the URR programme meant University + University and Region + Region and was aimed at fostering better international ties between Iwate University and other universities in the Asian region by coordinating the links with

these learning institutes.

"The programme is a platform for participants including lecturers and undergraduates to share the latest research findings as well as to boost the undergraduates' interest to take the lead in the manufacturing industry especially in the future of the casting area," he added.

He also said apart from presenting working papers, the participants exchanged ideas and views on the most recent technology and research conducted by their respective universities.

He added that a consensus was planned to form a consortium and an agreement on the matter would be signed by the four universities involved.

Dr. Ahmad Razlan said once the consortium was established, it would expect to further strengthen the existing relationships especially in research, cultural and student exchange and reinforce the ties with industries in the region.

"Apart from attending talks, they were exposed to the latest research findings related to technology in the manufacturing industry by other universities.

"They also discussed about student exchange programme, collaboration in international research works, organising international seminars on the manufacturing industry, working together in research with industries in the region, funding and developing beneficial projects," he added.

The group also visited a research centre in Kitakami City that adopted a concept 'Industry Centre of Excellence' (I-COE) that saw close ties developed between the university and surrounding industry especially in areas where high-tech equipment was utilised for research purposes.

Other places that they visited were the Citizen Tohoku Co. Ltd, Metal Technology Co. Ltd and a production factory in Kitakami.

In an effort to understand the Japanese culture, tradition and important historical events, the participants were taken for a tour at a handicraft centre, the Chusonji Temple and Kenji Miyazawa Memorial Museum in Hiraizumi.

The programme was hailed as successful as collaborations and sharing of research and culture had been further strengthened between UMP, Iwate University and other universities in the region.