HICOM Automotive Manufacturer (M) Sdn Bhd in Pekan, Pahang, celebrated its first batch of graduates when 24 of its staff completed their studies in Industry Technology Management's (ITM) Executive Diploma Programme recently.

The ITM programme, initiated in the middle of 2009, contains 10 modules – each module runs for four days in a month and classes are conducted over the weekends.

The programme, registered under the Special Training Scheme, is 100 percent funded by HICOM Automotive, through its levy contributions to the Human Resources Development Fund.

According to one of the graduates, Mohd Zakir Talib, he felt honoured and indebted to the company for the lifetime opportunity of pursuing this programme, after laboring at the company for over 16 years. "I certainly hope this programme will be taken to the next level as it will help improve employees' skills in their daily work performance."

Another student, Shuhaimi Abdul Rahman, concurred and said, "I hope such an opportunity will also be extended to other HICOM Automotive employees who were not selected to pursue such programme this time around.

The actual graduation is expected to take place early in October, in conjunction with UMP's 5th Convocation.