

First Batch of PKLI-ECRL to Register at UMP



Kuantan, 25th September - 21 diploma graduates and 29 graduate graduates from various higher education institutions nationwide enrol for the ECRL Industrial Skills Training Program (PLKI-ECRL) at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) conducted by Malaysian Rail Link Company (MRL). They are the first batch intake to undergo the training to improve the skills as well as to gain experience in rail industry in this country.

They were welcomed in the ECRL Industrial Skills Training Program (PLKI-ECRL) Meet and Greet Session for the first intake students organized by MRL in collaboration with UMP. The event was held at Zenith Hotel Kuantan and was attended by the Minister of Higher Education Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh and UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim. Also present were Chief Executive Officer of MRL, Darwis Abdul Razak and Managing Director of China Communications Construction (ECRL) Sdn.Bhd. (CCCC), Bai Yinzhan.

UMP has been appointed as the Focal University for PLKI-ECRL program due to the cooperation of the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) with Malaysia Rail Link (MRL) and for the successful completion of the East Coast Railway Rail Project (ERCL) launched by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak recently.

Outcome from the fruitful discussion between Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) and Malaysia Rail Link (MRL), UMP has been appointed as focal university for PLKI-ECRL program and to ensure the successful of this ECRL project as launched by Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak recently.



According to Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir, the first batch of PLKI-ECRL trainee targeted on universities students graduated in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering program. They will be trained to strengthen their knowledge on railway technology.

"UMP's involvement in this training programs starts from recruitment and registration of participants, syllabus development, professional and industrial training, provision of teaching staff, establish training facilities, research and development program as well as supporting the MOHE agenda of graduate's employability.

Prior to that, UMP collaborates with Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU) and Southwest Jiaotong University (SWJU) to develop a syllabus in railway transportation. Currently, UMP through Faculty of Mechanical Engineering introduced elective course on railway technology which will be offered this semester," Vice-Chancellor further elaborates.

Meanwhile, Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL) Chief Executive Officer Darwis Abdul Razak said the first intake of 54 PLKI-ECRL trainees demonstrated the long-term commitment of the stakeholders of the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) to develop adequate engineering skills and expertise in relation to the rail industry in Malaysia.



"Trainees that have completed the 3-month training under PLKI-ECRL programme will be automatically offered jobs by either by MRL or CCCC, or by their respective subcontractors. We look forward to employ the first batch of trainees by the first quarter of 2018 and trust they will contribute towards the smooth implementation of this high-impact infrastructure project that is scheduled to be operational by 2024," he noted.

Darwis said the PLKI-ECRL programme which is planning to incorporate some 3,600 trainees within a 5-year period, has attracted much attention nationwide particularly from degree and diploma holders of engineering courses, adding that a selection process is underway to enrol some 700 trainees by end-2018.

According to China Communications Construction Company Limited ECRL, (CCCC) Executive Managing Director, Bai Yinzhao said the company is dedicated to support the PLKI-ECRL training programme via its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative, as it would help generate professionals and expertise in the local rail industry particularly in the areas of design and construction of tracks.

"We are pleased that the PLKI-ECRL training programme has attracted plenty of interest nationwide among degree and diploma holders in engineering studies. With the maiden intake of 54 students in the training programme, we should be able to meet our target of getting some 700 trainees on board by 2018 and a total of 3,600 trainees by 2022," he said.



Bai added the CCC, the main contractor of the ECRL project, is ready to provide employment to the successful trainees of the PLKI-ECRL once they complete the 3 month training, adding that its sub-contractors would also be absorbing a host of trainees under their wing for the long-term.

The selected trainee is part of 760 candidates who apply and the next group is expected to register on October and November this year involving a total of 250 candidates. They will be provided with learning facilities within the university campus until the completion of the training.

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