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# Skills training for work in rail industry

Trainees to benefit from Malaysia-China partnership

**KUANTAN:** The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) Industrial Skills Training Programme (PLKI-ECRL) is hoping to get 3,600 trainees on board by 2022 to improve their skills and experience in the rail industry.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said the training conducted by Malaysian Rail Link (MRL) at **Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)** would see direct involvement of the trainees in the construction of ECRL during their three-month training programme.

"Once they complete their training they will be absorbed as employees and will continue working until the completion of the ECRL project in 2023," said Idris, who welcomed the first intake of 50 trainees into the programme here.

"The locals must be given enough training in the operations and maintenance of ECRL.

"We hope they will return to their hometowns and be more impactful after they finish."

He added that MRL, China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) and sub-contractors of CCCC were all ready to absorb their trainees as employees.

Idris said the 50 trainees consisted of 21 diploma graduates and 29 degree graduates, and were chosen through an interviewing process of 760 applicants nationwide.

He said there would be another intake of 250 trainees in December.

UMP vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the trainees targeted for the programme were those who graduated in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering and would be trained to strengthen their knowledge in railway technology.

"UMP is collaborating with Beijing Jiaotong University and Southwest Jiaotong University to develop a syllabus in railway transportation. UMP, through our Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, has just introduced elective cours-



Idris (third from left) handing out offer letters and trainee tags at the training programme. With him is Dr Daing (left).— Bernama

es on railway technology which will be offered this semester," said Dr Daing.

CCCC executive managing director Bai Yinzhan said they were dedicated to supporting the programme as it would help to generate professionals and expertise in the local rail industry, particularly in the areas of design and con-

struction of tracks.

Bai said CCCC was ready to provide employment to the successful trainees of the PLKI-ECRL once they completed training, adding that their sub-contractors would also take trainees under their wing for the long term.

"We are pleased that the PLKI-ECRL programme has attracted

interest nationwide from degree and diploma holders in engineering," said Bai.

Also present was MRL chief executive officer Darwis Abdul Razak.

Those interested to enrol in the PLKI-ECRL training programme can visit the MRL website ([www.mrl.com.my](http://www.mrl.com.my)).