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PEKAN REVIEW

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Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community

CITREX 401 products flourish innovation cu

Translation by: DR. ROZAIMI ABU SAMAH, FACULTY OF CHEMICAL AND PROCESS ENGINEERING T

The 10th edition of Creation, Innovation, Technology & Research Exposition (CITREx) 2020 saw Universiti encouraging and nurturing the innovation culture among the researchers including academicians and stu Malaysian Technological University Network (MTUN), Kolej Poly-Tech MARA, Advanced Technology T education institutions (HEI) across the country.

The exposition was held on 12 and 13 February 2020, involving 401 entries that included participation from

This initiative supports the university's aspiration in communitising technology through the encouragement o

A total of 218 entries involving UMP staff, eight from MTUN, four from local public universities including Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Universiti Perguruan Sultan Idris (UPSI), as well as

The remaining came from UMP students (129 entries) and secondary and primary schools (40 entries).

Also held was the exchange of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UMP and NanoMalaysia with PlaTCOM Ventures Sdn. Bhd. (PlaTCOM) relating to the promotion of technology commercialisation and centralised in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

The event witnessed the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dr. Kamal Zuhairi Executive Officer (CEO) of NanoMalaysia, Dr. Rezal Khairi Ahmad, while PlaTCOM was represented by the company.

Also present were the Chairman of the UMP Board of Directors, Dato' Sri Ibrahim Ahmad, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Ts. Dr. Rosli Hainin.

16 new students received incentives under UMP Educa

A total of 16 new Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) students who recently registered for the 2019/2020 incentives under UMP Education Incentive Assistance Scheme.

Each received a sum of RM1,000 that would help lessen their financial burden.

They were selected from 438 students who registered for the second intake that took place at both of the u on February 7, 2020.

The incentives were presented to students at both campuses with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Hainin handed out the incentives at the Student Activity Centre in UMP Pekan Campus while Student Service Dean, Associate Professor Dr. Mansor Sulaiman gave out the incentives at the Second College Re

According to Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Rosli, the scheme was an effort taken to help reduce the financial privileged family background (B40 group).

“To those who receive the incentives, they are also eligible to receive RM500 if they obtain good results, above every semester.

“It is a new incentive introduced this year aimed at motivating students to maintain good results until they co

“UMP Foundation is also on an aggressive campaign in seeking funds to ensure that more students can be

“To date, funds are derived from donations by corporate bodies, strategic partners such as Bank Rakyat, al

One of the recipients, Muhammad Firdaus Nor Hamda, 22, who is from Jerteh, Terengganu, said he wa
would help to cover the cost of registration and some other expenses.

He also said he had not expected to be selected.

The third child of eight siblings, Muhammad Firdaus said he was grateful to be able to continue h
Manufacturing Engineering.

He added that initially, he had second thoughts about continuing his study as his family’s livelihood only dep

“However, my mother advised me to continue with my studies, saying that education can shape our future
my studies and be successful and eventually, help my family,” he said.

Khairull, student-cum-rental car entrepreneur, provides cheaper students in campus

By: SITI NURFARMY IBRAHIM, PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT, OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

It started with his intent to facilitate students to move around in campus and going by with only a Perod
Khairull Nasruddin Mansor, 25, is a proud owner of a modest car rental business with five cars.

He had some experience running the business following a working stint with a car rental operator prior to th

The Faculty of Chemical and Process Engineering Technology undergraduate said at first, it was tough as t

With a loan and some savings that he made when working, Khairull, or fondly known as Kerol, now run the
car models.

He said the cars were more suitable for students while the rental rate was not as high as those charged o
daily basis.

Khairull said he charged the students on an hourly basis, starting from RM6 up to RM10, depending on the

The cars were also placed at strategic locations where students could easily pick the vehicles, he added.

Khairull said he also provided delivery service to customers outside of the campus.

He strongly believed that an undergraduate must be brave to try something new such as a business venture plan that involved a good balance for studying and running a business.

“This will challenge one to break out from one’s comfort zone. One must feel the pain and gain in business something that is really valuable,” he said.

He said there were many challenges faced due to stiff competition from other car rental operators but that the business.

One of the challenges was not having customers during the semester holidays but Khairull managed to attract students from nearby learning institutes.

Khairull also said he emphasised on safety and would ensure that the cars were in good condition and safe.

He also acknowledged the support from the university in providing the opportunity for students to go into business.

On his future plans, Khairull said he hoped to set up a branch in his hometown and to find business partners as well as to open a car wash centre and workshop that offered lower maintenance cost.

Khairull, who came from a middle-income family and the only son among his siblings, had also set out to find a job while still a student at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP).

The money that he earned was used for expenses while in the university and that he even send some of the money home.

Apart from the car rental business, Khairull also dabbled in other businesses like selling perfume and doing part-time jobs with several friends.

Our nation needs more Professional Engineers

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The journey of an engineer begins from obtaining a scroll of an engineering degree till becoming a professional better known as Professional Engineer (PE). Becoming a Professional Engineer can be considered as the highest achievement for graduates in any area. The recognition as a Professional Engineer will provide a sense of triumph to the engineering profession. Professional Engineer will only deliver the tasks based on their most exceptional engineering skills, providing an optimum solution to the problem, comprehensive investigation and analysis, utilisation of best available resources, a safeguard, a high priority of public safety, and sound judgement in project management through ethical practices across sectors for our engineers to serve including consultation, research & development, construction, building, manufacturing, plantation, aviation, maritime, sales, and oil & gas industry, as well as institutions of higher learning like universities and polytechnics as a teaching engineer.

For our beloved country to become a developed nation, the engineer to population ratio must be 1:100. For Malaysia, the number of engineers should be 300,000. Surprisingly, based on the Education Ministry's statistics for 2020, the number of engineers produced per year by the local institutions of higher learning, excluding graduates from international universities, the cumulative total of all engineers produced from 1997 to 2020 is estimated to be about 400,000. The number of engineers in Malaysia is still far below the required number.

One of the main reasons for the low number of engineers is the low registration rate of Graduate Engineers (GE) as Professional Engineers (PE). According to the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM), only 35 percent of the registered Graduate Engineers have been upgraded to Professional Engineers. This is a significant gap that needs to be addressed to meet the demand for engineers in the country.

Unfortunately, the reality is that only 35 percent of the graduate engineers (GE) registered with the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM) by the Malaysian government to administer the registration of PE. Although according to Malaysia's law, all practising engineers must be registered with the BEM as GE to work as an engineer in Malaysia (1967 (Revised 2015)), all practising engineers must be registered with the BEM as GE to work as an engineer in Malaysia. According to the BEM published by BEM in February 2020 (Figure 1), only 10 percent out of 142,000 registered Graduate Engineers have been upgraded to Professional Engineer certification as Professional Engineer which is less than 4 percent of all engineers in Malaysia.

At least five most common engineering fields that run the country today, which are mechanical, chemical, civil, electrical, and electronic. As shown in Figure 2, civil engineering shows the highest number of registered Graduate Engineer followed by electrical engineering, chemical engineering. More than 50 percent of the total registered Graduate Engineer have been upgraded to Professional Engineer in civil engineering disciplines which are civil and electrical engineering. For mechanical engineering, the number of Graduate Engineer upgraded to Professional Engineer is slightly less at about 40 percent. The least amount of converted Graduate Engineer to Professional Engineer is demonstrated by chemical and electronic engineering.

Several reasons have been identified to be the cause of this mismatch:

1. Some engineers thought that Professional Engineer status is only required for engineers who work in the public sector.
2. The jobs do not require engineers to register as a Graduate Engineer.
3. The job never deals with document submissions to the authorities that require registered Graduate Engineer.
4. Some local engineers choose to work abroad.
5. Some engineers leave the engineering profession.
6. Mismatch expectations between engineering graduates and employers resulted in unemployment.

While the number of engineering graduates has been very encouraging in terms of quantity, Malaysia is still far from being a developed nation in terms of employability and retention of talents within the engineering sector and companies. Since Professional Engineer is the highest qualification to achieve a developed nation's status, all engineering graduates should register as Graduate Engineer and upgrade to Professional Engineer qualification.

Figure 2: Percentage of GE and PE according to engineering disciplines in Malaysia

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