

UMS first to offer course in Malaysia

T&P 30/7/2011/A8

By Chok Sim Yee

KOTAKINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will be the first in Malaysia to offer a Masters in Engineering in Oil and Gas course.

The 18-month programme, due to begin in September this year, also places UMS as the fourth institute to offer such programme after the United States, Brazil and Scotland.

The course, which is offered under the School of Engineering and Information Technology (SKTM), comprises a year of coursework and six months of industrial placement.

UMS deputy vice chancellor Associate Professor Dr Kasim

Hj Mad Mansur said the master programme would enable engineering degree graduates from UMS to pursue their postgraduate degree in oil and gas.

"The course gives an opportunity for the oil and gas industry in Malaysia to generate first class human resources related to this field."

He added that the first intake was limited up to 20 students.

The programme was evaluated by the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) and Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA). Industry players, including Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP),



Hashim (second right) looks at some of the students' projects after launching the Master of Engineering in Oil and Gas programme in UMS.

Petronas and Shell who have also been engaged for discussion during the formation of the curriculum.

Meanwhile, SKTM dean Associate Professor Dr Rosalam Hj Sarbatly said the programme would cost above RM30,000 as it was considered one of the more high end courses.

However, he pointed out that such courses cost close

to RM100,000 overseas and RM50,000 at UTP.

He reiterated that intake would be open to undergraduates with first engineering degree in either civil, mechanical, electrical or chemical.

Rosalam also encouraged companies to enrol their employees in the course, as it was mainly designed for the managerial level.

In terms of teaching staff, Rosalam assured that UMS had the resources for the courses, and would only need one or two lecturers from UTP and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) for oil and gas.

The core courses for the programme are fundamentals of oil and gas, project management, safety and risk management,

computational method in engineering, measuring and control instrumentation in engineering, drilling methodology, advanced downstream processing, and environmental impact and conservation.

Also present was permanent secretary to the Ministry of Industrial Development, Hashim Pajjan.