

## Would-be Accountants Need to Have Balanced Knowledge

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**TUESDAY, 20 MAY** – An accountant needs to be intellectual, have superior physical and emotional energy and integrity in conducting their daily work.

Such was the statement by the Bursar of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Hj. Rizal Othman at a forum on ‘Bridging the Gap Between Academia and Industry’ which was held at the Auditorium of Centre for Postgraduate Studies UMS today.

Hj. Rizal who is a member of the Certified Practising Accountants (CPA) Australia, said that students should

have courage and high self-esteem to become successful accountants.

Meanwhile, the Director of Accounting UMS, Dr. Sulaiman Tahajuddin said so far no study had said that there was a gap between university and industry.

“Perhaps the myth which stated that there was a gap, refers to the technical ability and attitude of a person, who needs to learn the technical know-how themselves,” he said.

Meanwhile, Head of Tunku Abdul Rahman College Sabah branch, Chu Wen Tyng advised students majoring in accounting to equip themselves with soft skills besides academic skills in preparation for the workforce.

He said in addition to communication skills, an accountant needs to have social skills, ability to lead a team and have good time management.



“The workforce currently seeks graduates who are balanced both in academic and soft skills as these are advantages to being a possible job candidate,” he added.

A total of 250 students majoring in accounting from UMS, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Sabah and Lok Yuk Secondary School attended the forum jointly organised by the Malaysian Institute of Accountants, State Education Department, Bursar Department and Accounting Centre UMS. – *ZMD (fl)*