

41 graduate from oil and gas academy

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By Chok Sim yee

KOTA KINABALU: A total of 41 students from Tun Ahmadshah Abdullah Oil and Gas Academy (TAS Academy) received their Business and Education Council, UK (BTEC) Level Two certificates in engineering technician programmes in oil and gas operations here, yesterday.

These include five in electrical discipline, 10 in instrumentation discipline, 16 in mechanical discipline and 10 in process discipline in the oil and gas sector.

In the same event, 12 students of the September 2012 intake of the BTEC engineering technician programmes in oil and gas operations took their oath. Ten of the students are sponsored by Sabah Economic Planning Unit (UPEN) while the remaining two are self-sponsored.

Datuk K.Y. Mustafa, UMS Link Holdings Sdn Bhd group chairman and director, said the creation of TAS Academy was a great milestone as there was no

other institution which offered oil and gas courses in Sabah.

"Students in the oil and gas course are encouraged to pursue their interest in this sector because such course was non-existent 20 years ago," he said, adding that students who had completed Level Two of the programme should continue to the next level.

He pointed out that the issue was not recruiting students, but to secure sponsorships as this course was costly due to the necessity to procure experts and facilities.

"I hope the state government will continue to support us. It is a good opportunity for local Sabahans to be able to study this course.

"Sponsorships are always necessary as none of the individual students could afford it."

He added that job opportunities in the oil and gas industry here are plenty in view of the sector's development in the state.

"The oil and gas industry is still at a very maiden stage; it

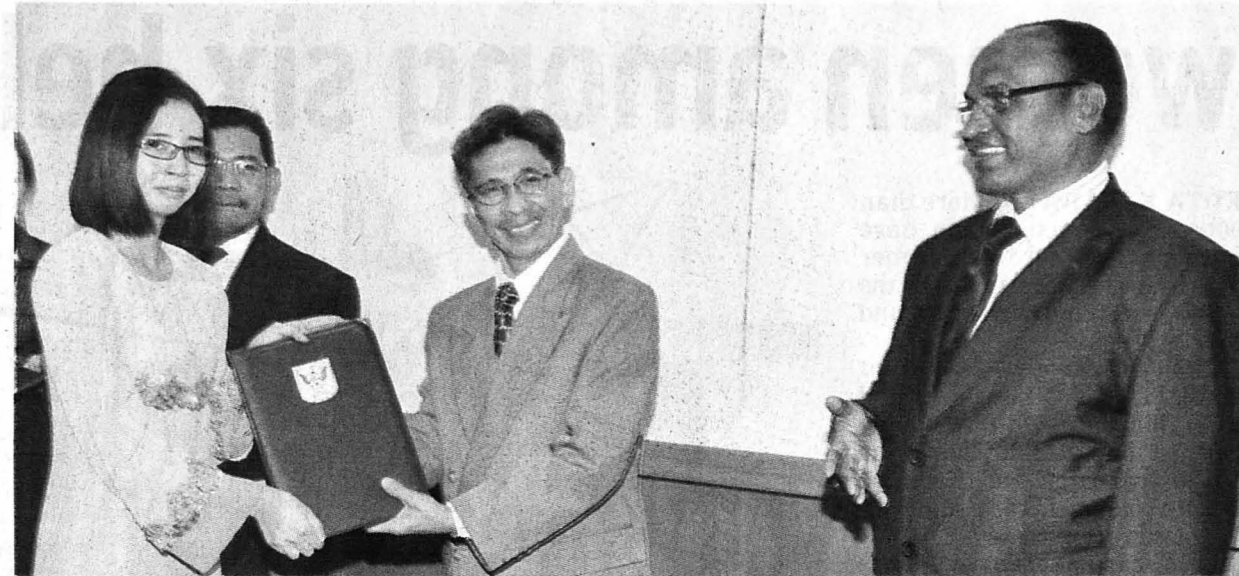
will grow, and we will need more workers," he said.

TAS Academy is fully-managed and wholly-owned by UMSLINK-SilverKris Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of UMS Link Holdings Sdn Bhd.

The academy is recognized as an official Business and Education Council, UK (BTEC) International Centre of Learning offering approved customised BTEC engineering technician programmes in oil and gas operations.

BTEC is a work related qualification suitable for a wide range of students as they provide a practical, real-world approach to learning alongside a theoretical background.

The academy provides internationally organized competency-based engineering technician programmes in oil and gas operations in four disciplines — BTEC Advance Diploma in Electrical Engineering in Oil and Gas Operations, BTEC Advance Diploma in Instrumentation Engineering in Oil and Gas Operations, BTEC



Mustafa presents the certificate to one of the students who completed BTEC Level Two certificate in engineering technician programme in oil and gas operations, watched by Rizal (behind) and Krishnaiah (right).

Advance Diploma in Mechanical Engineering in Oil and Gas Operations, and BTEC Advance Diploma in Process Engineering in Oil and Gas Operations.

In November last year, TAS Academy's first batch of 45

students received their BTEC Advanced Diploma in Engineering Technician in Oil and Gas, marking a first in the history of TAS Academy to achieve successful completion of its BTEC Level Three Advanced Diploma

programmes since the academy was officially declared open by the Head of State on August 16, 2008.

All 45 graduates are now employed in the oil and gas industry.