

41 students receive Certificate in Oil & Gas operation technician from TAS Academy

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KOTA KINABALU: Forty one students completed a BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Operation Technician in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) recently, ready to take part in the state's growing oil and gas industry.

The programme is managed by the Tun Ahmadshah Abdullah Oil & Gas Academy (TAS Academy) which is managed by UMSlink - Silverkris Sdn Bhd.

TAS Academy offers approved customised BTEC Engineering Technician programmes in oil and gas operations. BTEC or Business and Technical Education Council, UK is a work-related qualification suitable for a wide range of students as it provides real-world practical approaches and theoretical background.

Meanwhile, several of the students when approached were hopeful of embarking on a career in the oil and gas sector.

"For the time being, I intend to join the industry. I will further my studies to become a senior engineer and target to

work for Petronas," said Mohd Rafai, 26, who holds a BTEC Level 2 Intermediate Certificate as an Electrical Operation Technician.

One of the female graduates Norisah, 22 said: "I did my practical at Tanjung Maintenance for 3 months and currently work at the Labuan Shipyard. I hope I will succeed in my endeavor to contribute my skills to Sabah's oil and gas industry. I will continue learning and pursue my studies to the Diploma level in Mechanical Engineering."

BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Operation Technician comprises four majors - electrical, instrument, mechanical and process.

At the certificate presentation yesterday, 12 new students were accepted for the Sept 2012 intake. Ten of them are sponsored by the State Public Services Department and State Economic Planning Unit while two of the students are self-sponsored.

In November last year, TAS Academy's first batch of 45 students received their BTEC Advance Diploma in Engineering Technician in Oil and Gas. They were also the first group of TAS Acade-

my students to successfully complete the BTEC Level 3 Advanced Diploma programme.

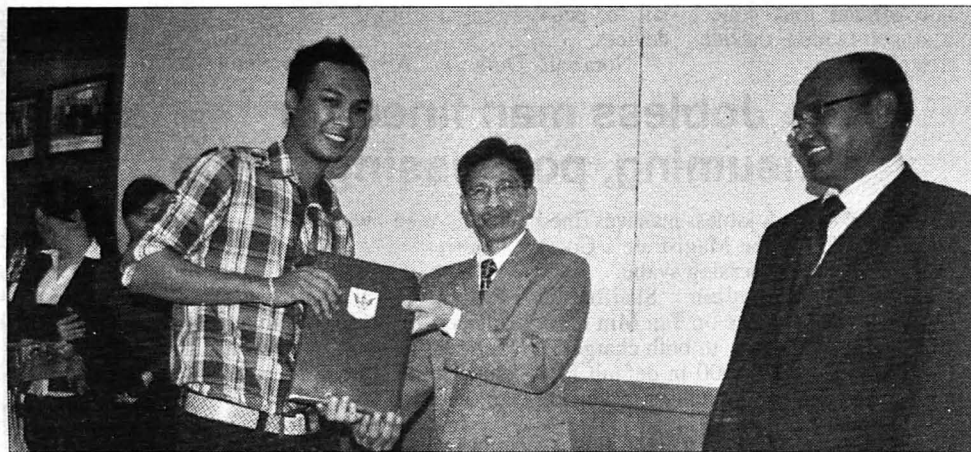
Meanwhile, UMS Link Holdings Chairman, Datuk K.Y Mustafa, who presented the certificates, urged the graduates to keep studying and obtain higher qualifications related to the oil and gas sector.

"Our 41 graduates from UMS will contribute to the growth of the oil and gas industry in terms of building up a workforce that is skilled and competent.

"Students nowadays are very lucky to have this kind of programme. During my time and even 20 years ago it was so difficult to study in this field, let alone, get this kind of programme which is sponsored by the state government," he added.

"In the 1990s, when we did recruiting and training, we had to send our people overseas to places such as Brazil and India and it cost a lot."

"The oil and gas industry is the main contributor to the nation's economic development and the expansion of this industry offers various job opportunities to the people," he added.



Datuk K Y Mustafa (second right) hands over a certificate to a student, watched by the Director of TAS Academy, Prof Dr Duduku Krishnaiah (right).



The 12 new students taking the BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Operation Technician take their oath.