



Engineers pose for a photo with the invited guests at the opening ceremony of the BEM 2017 Roadshow and MoU Signing ceremony.

M'sian engineers poised to take on bigger challenges

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KOTA KINABALU: There is a marked increase in the number of registered engineers over the last 10 years, according to Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM) President Dato Sri Dr Roslan Md Taha.

For graduates, he said, the annual number registering with the Board has increased from 2,810 in 2006 to 6,663 this year till October.

Likewise for professional engineers, the annual number registering with the Board has increased from only 217 in 2006 to 547 this year till October.

"These numbers make up a total of 102,191 registered graduate engineers and 18,218 professional engineers as of October this year," he said in his welcoming remarks at the BEM Roadshow 2017 and MoU signing ceremony between BEM and Universiti Malaysia Sabah, here.

He said with these statistics, the engineers of Malaysia are well poised to take on the challenges of handling major engineering projects in the country and beyond.

"I believe our engineering practitioners are ready to compete with our foreign counterparts, in particular those from the Asean region, in the light of the advent of the Asean Economic Community which took effect since December last year.

"In line with the regional policy development and demands, the Registration of the Engineers Act, which was amended in July 2015, now allows full liberalisation of engineering services, whereby foreign companies can hold up to 100 per cent equity and directorships for engineering consultancy practices."

He said this will mean opening our doors to foreign consulting firms and allowing them to compete with local practitioners.

"Likewise reciprocally, Malaysian engineers should be able to access the massive Asean market which has a total population of 590 million.

"With these developments, our engineering fraternity need to equip themselves with the cutting-edge state-of-the-art skills and tools in their respective fields, in order to ably meet the challenges arising from the influx of foreign consulting firms and also to expand their services beyond our shores," he said.

He also said engineering professionals should uphold their dignity, ethics and reputation in order to gain the confidence of the public in relation to engineering works and services entrusted to them," he said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister cum Minister of Industrial Development Datuk Seri Raymond Tan Shu Kiah, in a media conference after the opening ceremony of the event, said it is very important that engineers, especially professional engineers, upscale their talents.

"There is a lot of development, infrastructure and utilities that we need to do especially in the context of Sabah and what more for the other states in Malaysia

"What is more challenging is that we are encouraging our professional engineers besides talents, that they will go further beyond Malaysia, even in Asean countries, within the region."

He said the number of professional engineers must grow with good level of professionalism.

"I think that probably be the work of the Board of Engineers Malaysia in order to make sure, when the numbers grow, the level of our talents and abilities will basically be upscale.

"We want our work to be in collaboration, if not under the supervision of professional people, and we look at this aspect quite seriously as far as the State is concerned," he said.

Meanwhile, UMS is the 17th educational institution to sign the MoU with BEM.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Raymond Tan Shu Kiah who represented Chief Minister Tan Sri Musa Aman and Deputy Minister of Works Datuk Rosnah Shirlin oversaw the signing and exchanging of the MoU between UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Dr D. Kamarudin D. Mudin and BEM President Dr Roslan.

Roslan said the MoU aims to increase the number of applicants and ease the process of bulk registration of accredited engineering graduates with BEM through their online system, without having to wait for their convocation.

He said in regards to documentation for registration, the university only needs to provide a list of graduating engineers that is approved by the Senate. In comparison, normal requirements include the presentation of original degree scroll and "certified true copy" by a Professional Engineer, both of which are exempted following the signing of the memorandum.

"With more relaxed requirements, BEM is giving their full trust to the universities in providing genuine documents of their graduates of BEM-accredited programmes.

"In addition, the ratio of the number of registered engineers to the population is also expected to increase from 1:3 to 1:1 in due course," he said.

Roslan added that UMS will also receive a sum of RM10,000 for a period of five years to be awarded to outstanding engineering graduates on their convocation day.

Meanwhile, BEM Corporate and International Affairs Department Senior Manager, Nik Kamalia Abdul Rahman, further explained that for each of the five years, the university will receive RM2,000 to be awarded to one student or RM1,000 each for two students depending on the university.

"Approval for registration for universities that signed the MoU will be within one week as opposed to around one month via normal method," she added.

Other universities that have previously signed the MoU include Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Taylor's University and Curtin University.