

UMS to churn more skilled workers in oil and gas

DE 16-10-13 4

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will introduce more programmes next year to generate skilled workers in the oil and gas field that is expected to need more than 16,000 workers a year.

Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd. Harun Abdullah said on Wednesday that UMS is collaborating with the Labuan Financial Services Authority to introduce degree and diploma programmes in five disciplines such as process, instrumentation, mechanical, electrical and utility.

"We will embark on more undergraduate and diploma programmes via the UMS' campus in Labuan," he said during the opening of UMS' First International Oil and Gas Symposium, here.

The programmes is also seen as a move to expand the field of studies from only one postgraduate study.

Dr Mohd. Harun's speech was read by the UMS' School of Engineering and Information Technology's Dean Associate Professor Rosalam Hj Sarbartly.

He said as UMS aspired to become a leader in the oil and gas manpower development it welcomes more human capital investments and collaboration from other organisations.

"It is here (Sabah) that the oil and gas sector plays a significant role in the development of the nation, contributing more than 40 per cent of the national income," he said.

"With major shifts underway in the old and gas industry ... all these oil and gas upstream and downstream activities need 16,000 skilled manpower annually to meet the growing demand by 2020 as outlined by the Federation of Accredited Department of Skills Development of Malaysia," he said. - Jason Santos