

UMS undergrads able to join AEON under MoU



Dr Ismail and Etsuko (third left and right) together with Abdullah and Yaacob (second left and right) after the signing ceremony.

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) undergraduates can now apply for the AEON's sustainable supplier development programme, (SSDP) after both sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at UMS yesterday.

Under the agreement, UMS can also conduct campus recruitment for AEON's management trainee programme.

"Currently we have almost 30 management staff from UMS recruited since 2012, and they will remain with AEON as they are highly motivated and passionate in their career," said AEON CO (M) Berhad, human resource division, general manager Etsuko Eto.

"Recently, a UMS graduate was promoted from assistant to supervisor merchandiser in the headquarters as she has positive vision to grow in life and career,"

she said.

As AEON is celebrating its 30th anniversary in Malaysia this year, we will continue to focus on grooming the locals because we value their efforts and commitment in making our achievements possible, said Etsuko.

UMS deputy vice chancellor (students affairs & alumni) Prof Madya Dr Ismail Ali, said creating the best talent is a subjective matter; it comes to the individual's experience and understanding of the industry requirements.

He said UMS can educate or elevate professionalism in the students even though best talents are defined with working experience which most fresh graduates lacking.

"To overcome this, among the strategy is to collaborate with the industry to provide hands on information as well as experience in the working environment by having structured internship pro-

gramme.

"It is when students understand the requirement and the nature of the industry will assist them in developing professional habits such as entrepreneurial skill, better communication and also problem solving," said Dr Ismail.

The partnership between UMS and AEON was started by the Industry Centre for Excellence (ICoE) in UMS under the cluster for wholesale and retail besides hospitality and tourism; oil and gas; and biotechnology.

The Centre for Industry Relation is responsible for monitoring and implementing programmes as well as activities to fulfill the objective of ICoE.

The MoU between UMS and AEON was signed by Dr Ismail and Etsuko; witnessed by UMS registrar Datuk Abdullah Said and AEON general manager of loss, quality management & risk management, Lt Col (R) Yaacob Mahmud.