

UMS inks pacts with Shell, Rizal University

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KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Shell Petroleum Co Ltd recently strengthened its partnership with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaboratively establish and develop academic exchange and co-operation in teaching and training.

As part of the agreement, both parties will work together on participation in selected students' training and awareness programmes, introducing programmes that enhance the marketability and employability of students and also other forms of collaboration that will mutually benefit Shell and UMS.

A statement issued Monday said the MoU between Shell and UMS comprises two sections, the first part is an agreement for Shell to conduct an Immersion Module project over the course of 10 weeks.

"The objective of this 10-week programme is to enhance students' critical thinking, and problem-solving skills through team work. We believe that these are the essential skills that employers will look for in today's working environment," says Prithipal Singh, the General Manager of Sabah Shell Petroleum.

He said this programme consists of simulations of real working environments with challenges that will enable students to understand the critical success factors when delivering a major project for a multinational company.

"With this partnership with UMS, we aim to enhance the employability of undergraduates by supporting them towards developing the needed skills and capabilities," he said.

The second part of the MoU consists of the appointment of Prithipal as the CEO@Faculty of UMS under the initiative of the Higher Education Ministry.

Prithipal will spend time engaging with UMS students through various speaking engagements and career talks as part of Shell's commitment towards developing local talent.

"The employability of our youths is an important economic indicator for our nation. As a higher learning institution, UMS is responsible for producing a highly-knowledgeable and highly-skilled workforce for the labour market," said UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin.

Dr Kamarudin also represented the university in signing the MoU, witnessed by its Registrar, No'man Haji Ahmad, while Sabah Shell Petroleum is represented by its General Manager of Human Resources, Nur-Azlina Mohd Yazid, witnessed by Jonathan Jolly, its Senior Manager of Government Relations for East Malaysia, Shell Malaysia.

In another development, a Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed between Universiti Malaysia Sabah's Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy and the Philippines' Jose' Rizal University's Student Development, recently.

The aim is to further strengthen cooperation between both parties.

The faculty's dead Associate Professor



The signing of the MoU between UMS and Shell.



Exchange of LoI documents between UMS and Jose Rizal University of the Philippines.

Dr Raman Noordin represented UMS, while Jose' Rizal University was represented by its Student Development Director Dr Ana Belen S Cuyugan.

The ceremony which took place at the UMS' faculty's Hotelab was witnessed by UMS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) Prof Dr Rasid Mail and Jose' Rizal University's Vice President (Academic) Dr Miguel Carpio.

Dr Rasid in his speech said the collaboration was important to ensure that both institutions achieve the highest level of achievement through development.

'Most of the world's leading universities achieve top position through international cooperation, and UMS is also fortunate to have a chance to collaborate with this university recognised by the TFE Times as the fifth best university in the Philippines.

"I strongly welcome this collaboration as we can also learn and share experiences including gaining their experience in small business development and sustainability matters," he explained.

The signing of the Letter of Intent which was held in conjunction with the 'Sustainable Seminar 2018: Towards a Sustainable Community' outlines cooperation of both parties, including student and staff mobility programmes, cooperation in education projects as well as organising trainings, seminars, workshops and other related activities.

The signing ceremony was also attended by the seminar's chairman Associate Prof. Dr Awangku Hassanal Bahar Pengiran Bagul who is also a lecturer at the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy.