

# Four UMS students get Repsol scholarships

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KOTA KINABALU: Four engineering students from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) received scholarship awards from Repsol Oil & Gas Malaysia Limited (Repsol).

The scholarship covers tuition fees, living allowances, purchase of computer and opportunities for practical training and internships.

The recipients were Nur Izzati bt Sukur (Mechanical Engineering), Verlon Vincent Lee, Nur Kamaliyah Dzil Razman and Arswitaa Baskaran (all Chemical Engineering). All, except Arswitaa, hail from Sabah.

They were among 16 recipients of the Repsol scholarship awards for 2017. The other 12 were from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) with five recipients, Universiti Malaya (UM) with three recipients and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) with four recipients, pursuing Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes.

Alan Britton, who is Repsol Malaysia BU Subsurface Manager, said the scholarship programme started during the Talisman days and Repsol continues to carry on with the programme as education and development of human capital are of core values for Repsol.

The programme was initiated in 2009 and in the first five years, a total of RM2.3 million had been disbursed to 57 students to three different partners - UM, UTM and USM to those majoring in Geology, Geophysics and Engineering.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle from 2013-2017 witnessed a further allocation of RM2 million and the inclusion of a new partner university

- UMS. To date, a total of 102 students have benefited from the programme.

Britton said the programme also complemented the government's goal of encouraging students to pursue tertiary education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, indirectly helping to produce technically competent local graduates that fulfil the demands of the industry, especially for the oil and gas sector.

He said 15 graduates from the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle were subsequently employed by Repsol and hoped they will continue to hone their technical skills and acquire experience to contribute to the company and grow in their respective careers.

Meanwhile, eight big-hearted Repsol staff led by Alan took time off from work last week to climb Mt Kinabalu to raise funds for charity organisations in Sabah and Labuan.

The climbers were Alan, Valerie Lee, Siva Muthusamy, Mohd Irfan Mahmud, Tharmaraj Magathevan, Wafi Azri Sharkawi, Zulkifly Tajudin and Zul Ishan Sham. The money raised will be distributed to five charities namely, Yayasan Nur Jauhar, Bukit Harapan, Jireh Home, Rumah Anak Yatim Ar-Raudah and Persatuan Bagi Orang-Orang Istimewa Labuan.

The climb marks the fifth consecutive year that Repsol staff has demonstrated their caring gesture by volunteering to conquer Mt Kinabalu and raise funds for charity. Since the first climb in 2013, RM335,000 had been raised and distributed to charity organisations here.



The scholarship recipients with Alan.