

# Real design project work for engineering students

By MOHD IZHAM B. HASHIM

KOTA KINABALU Engineering students at University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will gain relevant exposure and valuable experience on real design project work with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UMS and HSS Engineering Berhad.

The establishment of an on-campus teaching consultant office at the University's Faculty of Engineering is one of the main objectives under the MOU agreement inked by HSS Engineers Berhad Co-founder cum Executive Chairman Tan Sri Kunasingam A/L V Sittampalam and UMS Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof Dr. Shahril Yusof on behalf of the Vice Chancellor.

"This initiative signifies a great step forward in providing UMS engineering students wider opportunities to learn from experience on real design project works while being supervised by HSS staff during industry training," said UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr D. Kamarudin D. Mudin.

Furthermore, he added that students with the guidance of their supervisors stand to gain



Dr Shahril (left) exchanging the signed MOU with Kunasingam after the official ceremony recently at UMS.

from learning industry-relevant skills and experience which would add value to their degree programme as well as improve their employability in their future career.

"At the same time, faculty members will also benefit through staff attachment in the HSS Engineers Berhad office, which is needed to meet the requirements of becoming professional engineers and this is crucially important in

the process of accreditation," he said in a text delivered by Dr Shahril.

Presently, Dr Kamaruddin noted the university fulfils the requirements and is continually increasing the numbers, adding that the criteria set by the Engineering Accreditation Council requires three professional engineering courses for each engineering programme.

"After the completion of the one-year attachment, it is

hoped that the relationship with HSS Engineers Berhad will still be continued through joint research and consultation opportunities," he said.

In his remarks, Kunasingam said the signing paves the way forward for both UMS and HSS Engineers Berhad in leveraging on each other's key strength areas in education and projects, to realise the common goal of developing a skilled talent pool to develop

Sabah's economic growth and advancement.

"Education plays a crucially important component in building knowledge and talent among students for the future of our country and society, and close linkage between industry and academia is critical for the development of society, and more so, will particularly contribute to efforts to further enhance engineering and technical capabilities," he said.

Touching on the impact of new technologies and innovations to the industry, Kunasingam said the engineering field is no different and is constantly undergoing change due to the continuous flow of innovation in the modern era.

"As the engineering world progresses, it is inevitable that universities should continue collaborating with industry partners to realise the real value of education for its students," he said.

To this objective, Kunasingam said the company will strive to support UMS in expanding and enhancing its engineering consultant capabilities by sharing its local and international expertise, as well as resources, which are among the agreements listed

in the MOU.

"We at HSS Engineers Berhad remain true to our pledge to continuously innovate and adopt cutting edge technologies to provide international class engineering solutions, we've always welcomed engineering undergraduates from local universities and abroad to do their internship with us, and now we are proud to open our doors to UMS engineering undergraduates," he said.

Kamaruddin noted that from the nine Key Result Areas (KRA) under the UMS Strategic Plan 2018-2019, one of the targets aims to contribute to the development of state and nation, which is aligned with the collaboration between UMS and HSS Engineers Berhad.

IHSS Engineers Berhad now employs over 1,000 people, with well over 30 years of experience in a wide array of sectors which include urban infrastructure, roads, highways, railways, metro systems building and structure, transportation planning, power generation and water resources and supply, with extensive experience locally as well as abroad in ASEAN, India, Middle East and North Africa.