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19 `pioneers' get management diplomas

NINETEEN graduates received their post-graduate diploma in integrated manager development scheme from the Business and Advanced Technology Centre of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia at the Istana Hotel recently.

The first batch to receive such diplomas, the ceremony was attended by the university (UTM) pro-chancellor Datuk Mohamad Zahir Ismail, who also presented the scrolls to the graduates.

Looking handsome and elegant in their robes, the graduates proudly walked up to the stage and received their diplomas, watched on by their family members and friends.

Also present were UTM vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus, Warwick Manufacturing Group's K. Bhattacharyya, Prime Minister's Office Science Advisor Datuk Dr Omar Abdul Rahman and UTM council chairman Datuk Paduka Sallehuddin Mohamed.

The graduates had undergone a two-year fulltime course at the institute.

They included chief executives from various Government and private organisations such as Johor Technopark Sdn Bhd, Shapadu Trans-System Sdn Bhd, Lembaga Tabung Haji, Ministry of Finance and Tenaga Nasional Berhad.

The institute was set up in 1992 by the Prime Minister's Department to support and help Malaysian manufacturing and services industries to sustain international competitiveness through training, technology and industrial networking.

The IMDS programme was conducted with the co-operation of the Warwick Manufacturing Group, University of Warwick in United Kingdom.

Besides IMDS, the university also offered another programme called the university-industry technology advancement programme that was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Sept 7.

The programme seeks to maintain UTM's position as the main contributor to the development of technological expertise in the country and adjust its structure and practices to be more flexible and responsive in meeting the needs of industry.

It is also aimed at promoting initiatives to support the development of new growth industries, markets and small and medium industries.

Mohamad Zahir said he hoped the knowledge gained from the course would bring about some improvement in the graduates' organisations.

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