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Business Focus signs MoAs with UTM, USM

BUSINESS Focus group of companies signed three Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia, which paved the way for collaboration in more education programmes and research into marine structure technology.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad witnessed the signing ceremony at the Awana Porto Malai yesterday.

Also present at the ceremony were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and HW Lima Sdn Bhd executive chairman Tan Sri Abdul Wahab Nawi.

In the first MoA, Penang Shipbuilding and Construction (PSC) signed a deal with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) to pave the way for six students to do their Masters' degree in marine technology at the university under PSC's scholarship.

The total scholarship is worth RM240,000.

At the signing ceremony, Business Focus executive chairman Tan Sri Amin Shah Omar Shah represented PSC while UTM vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Mohd Zulkifli Tan Sri Ghazali signed for the university.

They also signed an agreement for the collaboration between the PSC-Marine Technology Academy (PSC-MTA) and UTM's School of Professional and Continuing Education (Space) programme.

The Space programme offers PSC employees a chance to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Technology to improve their professional standing.

The four and a half years course is offered to all Diploma in Engineering holders employed by PSC-Naval Dockyard Sdn Bhd.

Thirty-two employees of the company has been selected to take the course.

Lectures are conducted every weekend by UTM lecturers.

PSC-MTA also signed an MOA with USM to develop a project in ferro-cement technology in marine structures.

The three-year project is worth RM500,000.

At the signing ceremony, PSC-MTA was represented by its director Kamaruddin Ahmad while USM was represented by its deputy vice-chancellor Prof Md Salleh Yaapar.

Ferro-cement technology involved the use of an innovative construction material for marine applications.

The ferro-cement project is led by Prof Mahyuddin Ramli from USM's Faculty of Building and Planning.

Besides conducting research and development, USM will also train PSC-MTA staff to upgrade their skills and knowledge in the development of ferro-cement technology in this region.

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