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Petronas-Education

PETRONAS PROVIDE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR 60,000 M'SIANS

BANDAR SERI ISKANDAR, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- National petroleum company Petronas has not only successfully ventured into the global market, but also provided higher education for close to 60,000 Malaysians.

Its President and Chief Executive Officer Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican said 30,000 had studied at the Malaysian Marine Academy (ALAM) and 5,000 at Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP).

He said another 24,000 had obtained Petronas sponsorship for studies in local and foreign universities since the company was set up 30 years ago.

"Petronas, right from the beginning, has decided to develop human resources requirements not only for the company's needs but also as conduit for the country's manpower."

Mohd Hassan said this at the opening of UTP by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi here today.

UTP Chancellor and former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali and UTP Rector Dr Rosti Saruwono were present.

Mohd Hassan said Petronas played a pivotal role in steering the country's industrial sector especially that based on high technology like development of East Coast Petrochemical Corridor, Petronas Petroleum Industry Complex in Kertih and Petronas LNG Complex in Bintulu.

"To support Petronas' mammoth industries, highly qualified and trained workforce is needed," he said.

On UTP, Mohd Hassan said the university should follow steps taken by Petronas which began moderately but now became a world oil producer and had operations in 35 nations.

"UTP and Petronas share a humble start. Petronas began operations at a wooden building at Jalan Datuk Onn while UTP, which operated in 1995, shared academic facilities with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Petronas Management Training Institute (Permata) in Bangi, Selangor.

"A year later UTP moved to Bandar Seri Iskandar and took over the Perak-branch of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) campus," he said.

Mohd Hassan said in several aspects, UTP was more fortunate than Petronas as it managed to have its own permanent campus in less than 10 years.

As for Petronas, it had to wait for almost 25 years before moving its headquarters from Jalan Dato' Onn to the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC).

-- BERNAMA

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