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PSDC's close links with industry

THROUGHOUT its 15-year history, the Penang Skills Development Centre (PSDC) has always prided itself in placing importance on the core fundamentals of providing quality education and training, a formula that has formed the basis of its excellent track record.

Due to the institution's reputation of excellence, PSDC graduates can look forward to bright career prospects as they are much sought after, especially by small and medium and multinational companies.

Due to its close links and networking with the industry, academia and government, PSDC's trainers and educators have its pulse on developments and can communicate these advancements to their students.

The centre's "Smart Partnerships" with educational institutions in Singapore, UK, Australia, and the USA was acknowledged by then Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohammad as "a good example of Malaysia Incorporated at work".

Since 1994, 11 other skills development centres have been set up throughout Malaysia based on the PSDC model.

The institution received further recognition from the Ministry of Human Resources when it received the "Anugerah Menteri Sumber Manusia Year 2000: Training Provider Category".

Besides being the first and only centre in Malaysia to be awarded MS ISO 9001 for the Higher National Diploma in Engineering in 2003, it is also a recipient of the Centre of Excellence award and Quality Partnership status from Edexcel International (United Kingdom).

These recognitions are validations of PSDC's programmes. Also, it was recently selected by the Multimedia University (MMU) to conduct programmes under the Networked Multimedia Education System (NMES), the Malaysian and Japanese governments' project to set up satellite-based tele-education infrastructure and applications in Malaysia, focusing on IT and multimedia training.

Since its inception in 1989, PSDC has continued to invest in upgrading its facilities in tandem with the advancement in engineering to produce graduates who can keep up with the needs of the industry.

It is embarking on its third and fourth phase of development to upgrade its facilities into world-class standards.

Within the next few months, the PSDC main campus will see new facilities including a multi-storey car park, machine and repair workshops, a library, laboratories, seminar rooms, auditoriums and an exhibition hall.

This RM15 million investment will augur well for PSDC as it applies for the Multimedia Super Corridor status later this year.

PSDC trainees benefit from the opportunity to be trained in a conducive learning environment, using industry-standard tools, state-of-the-art equipment, design software and computers donated by the industry and the Government.

Trained in handling the latest equipment and technology at PSDC's state-of-the-art campus, it is no wonder that its students are hired by industry leaders even before they graduate.

It not only aims to get its students ahead but also to give them an advantage in quality (advanced training courses that can be completed in shorter time periods) and affordability.

PSDC chief executive officer Datuk Boonler Somchit said PSDC played an important role in ensuring that the human resources supply in the

industrial sector fulfilled the industry's demands.

"For PSDC to continue to be a value-added training institution to its members, we intend to be constantly proactive by responding quickly to the needs of the industry.

"This means the training and academic programmes are tailored to correspond with the latest technological developments and employer requirements.

PSDC will hold an open day for the Higher National Diploma in Engineering and Applied Engineering on May 16. The next intake is on July 5.

For details, tel: 04-6437909 (Fook Oon at ext 503 /Abbie at ext 508); or e-mail: [ngfo@psdc.org.my](mailto:ngfo@psdc.org.my) and [limkw@psdc.org.my](mailto:limkw@psdc.org.my)

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