

Newspaper

New Straits Times

Date

22 February 2016

PM launches RM350m university campus in Pekan

NST- 22/2/2016

PEKAN: With an initial investment of RM350 million for the first phase of its development, DRB-Hicom University of Automotive Malaysia (DHU) is a beacon for the development of talent and quality education in the automotive industry.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said such an investment, the first in the Asean region, was commendable as not many private companies were willing to undertake it.

"I am proud that a private company invested a large sum of money to generate skilled manpower for the automotive industry," he said, praising the commitment and hard work of DRB-Hicom and DHU staff.

"Normally, companies will let the government handle the creation of higher learning institutions and courses. Hence, the move by DRB-Hicom to invest RM350 million is

appreciated. I understand that DRB-Hicom Bhd plans to invest another RM150 million in expansion and research and development, bringing its total investment to RM500 million," he said at DHU's launch of its campus here yesterday.

DHU was officiated by Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah who represented Sultan of Pahang Sultan Ahmad Shah.

Present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh and DRB-Hicom managing director Tan Sri Mohd Khamil Jamil.

At the ceremony, Tengku Abdullah was installed as DHU's first chancellor.

Previously known as International

College of Automotive (ICAM), in 2010, it was accorded full university status in October last year and offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programmes.

Najib attributed ICAM's success to the hard work of its staff and management, especially in fulfilling conditions set by the Higher Education Ministry.

He said these facilities would not exist without the consent of Sultan Ahmad Shah and Tengku Abdullah, who had been a driving force, providing the impetus that led to Pahang's progress.

Najib, who is also Pekan member of parliament, said the inauguration of DHU was meaningful because it coincided with his 40th year in politics.

Tengku Abdullah said Najib's journey from being an MP to prime minister evoked nostalgia.



Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah (centre) launching DRB-Hicom University of Automotive Malaysia in Pekan yesterday. With him are Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob (right) and DRB-Hicom managing director Tan Sri Mohd Khamil Jamil (third from right). Pic by Farizul Hafiz Awang