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Generating specialised engineers

AS the first and biggest chemical engineering institute in Malaysia, Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Chemical and Bioengineering Technology (UniKL MICET) plays a crucial role in generating skilled workers in the field of chemical and bioengineering in this country.

Most industries in Malaysia require workers with the ability to handle chemical engineering-related equipment or machineries compared to graduates who major in theoretical design.

According to Assoc Prof Dr Ruzainah Ali@Jaafar, the dean of UniKL MICET, "Many students do not want to enrol in the chemical and bioengineering fields due to the worry of not being able to secure a job as the oil and gas sector has now started to limit recruitment of new employees. However, students do not realise that chemical and bioengineering is still a highly sought-after field in the industry as its scope is not limited to only one sector – the oil and gas sector."

Dr Ruzainah further added that the graduates in this field have promising career opportunities. Among the industries that offer jobs for this field are manufacturing, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, petrochemical, industrial chemical, consultation and research, other than the oil and gas sector.

To prove this, the employability of UniKL MICET graduates is commendable with 87% of them obtaining employment six months after graduation.

She added that UniKL MICET graduates are sought after by employers as they are exposed to the use of real machines or equipment used in the industry during their studies.

Therefore, graduates would not have any problem handling machineries immediately after starting their job as they do not

have to undergo training in operating the industrial equipment.

UniKL MICET has more than 43 laboratories including chemical analysis lab, chemical technology lab, preparatory lab, polymer analysis and testing lab, rubber processing lab, food processing and analysis lab, chemical product testing and analysis lab, computer lab, water treatment lab, air pollution control lab, environmental science lab and Pilot Plant.

The dean said that UniKL MICET is also a World First Next Generation 3D Design Solution for Chemical Plants training centre that uses the Plant Design Management System (PDMS) and 3D design software.

"It is even more impressive, as the 3D design software is the first of its kind in the world to be used in teaching and learning in a university," she highlighted.

The 3D design software can be applied for the oil and gas, petrochemical and marine industries.

Dr Ruzainah also revealed that the facilities could be used to train 60 students at a time, with 30 for PDMS and another 30 for 3D design.

With these facilities, UniKL MICET students will get the exposure to the latest and modern software in designing chemical plants, thus producing graduates that meet the industry's requirements, coupled with the capabilities and competencies to seek employment in the global market.

Now after almost 16 years in operation, UniKL MICET has produced more than 4,000 graduates in chemical and bioengineering technology who are employees in various industrial sectors.

■ For more information on the January 2019 intake, call 06-551 2000 or e-mail asimi@unikl.edu.my