

# Importance of personal development

EDUCATING students nowadays is different and more challenging from previous generations. Therefore, various approaches and methods have been used to produce a better generation for the future.

Besides academic excellence, a student's attitude has also become a major concern. For this reason, additional exposure to higher educational levels must be given to students as part of the preparation for their personal development.

Realising this reality, SMK Tun Syed Sheh Barakah (SMKTSSB) principal Zainiah Mohd Ali and counsellors took an additional approach to collaborate with Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian Spanish Institute (UniKL MSI) in organising a special programme – "Program Bina Insan".

The two-day programme was held at UniKL MSI campus. Forty students from SMKTSSB took part in this programme,

which was conducted by students and lecturers from UniKL MSI as facilitators and moderators.

Program Bina Insan provided various practical and interactive training modules to students to promote interest in technical skills, motivation and teamwork.

During the programme, the students' skills in terms of communication, thinking skills and creativity were developed. Participants were exposed to the campus lifestyles, including opportunities to stay at the hostel together with existing students.

The uniqueness of the programme is based on the outcomes gained by both participants from SMKTSSB and UniKL MSI students as facilitators.

Besides giving much exposure to the school students, the experience in conducting such a programme has provided good knowledge for UniKL MSI students to



Group activities were part of the two-day programme held at UniKL MSI campus.

conduct more activities.

According to one of the students, Haris Iskandar Zulkefly, 17, he was excited and happy after being selected as a participant in the programme.

Apart from exploring something new, he also grabbed the actual experience of studying at the university.

"It was a valuable experience. I am pleased to have this opportunity and will make this my motivation to study in university later," he added.

In another statement, UniKL MSI dean Prof Dr Abu Talib Othman said such programmes give early exposure on the learning environment at the university.

"This programme is not only about building personality, it also exposes students

to the basic skills, both technical and communication. This is good for the next generation in creating a path to their career field," said Prof Abu Talib Othman during his presentation in the closing ceremony of the programme at UniKL MSI.

UniKL MSI offers full-time degree and diploma programmes. Students are provided with practical or hands-on learning with the help of facilities at industry standards.

In addition to technical skills, UniKL MSI also stresses on communication skills through activities and programmes organised by the university while creating a more interactive learning environment.

■ For details, look out for the advertisement in this *StarSpecial*.