

UCSI University engineers the future

THE escalating prices of crude oil and demand for it have reinforced the eminent role of petroleum as our primary source of energy. Through intensive global research and development, innovative uses of petroleum have been discovered which have contributed to increased diversifications of the petroleum industry.

The Malaysian oil and gas industry has been very active as the Government continues to further develop the industry amidst an increasingly challenging and complex environment. The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) was and continues to be, instrumental in ensuring Malaysian citizens' opportunities in petroleum-related businesses, provided they meet the technical and commercial requirements.

Additionally, in late 2007, the Malaysian government launched the East Coast Economic Region (ECER), a twelve year master plan to reinforce the government's commitment to help various identified regions in Malaysia harness their full potential by keeping pace with developments in the other areas of the nation. Key sectors included in the development of the ECER are tourism, manufacturing, agriculture, education and oil, gas and petrochemical.

Graduates in this field of study remain one of the most highly paid and sought after candidates. Most graduates are

employed by upstream gas and gas related activity companies even before they complete their programme, due to high global demand. UCSI University has introduced programmes related to petroleum engineering to cater for these needs around the country.

A career in the petroleum industry opens up multitudinous opportunities of involvement across a wide range of fields. According to the UCSI University's Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and

Built Environment, Chemical-Petrochemical Department, founder and head, Professor Dr. Hikmat Said Sulaiman, "If you are a drilling engineer, you will be working with geologists, geophysicists and drilling contractors involved in the designing and supervision of drilling operations. On the other hand, if you are a petroleum engineer, you will be involved in conducting assessment studies for the development of new oil and gas fields."

A Chemical and Petrochemical Engineering degree programme may also be another option for those who wish to pursue a career in a chemistry and physics-based industry. It is designed to equip students with a solid foundation of chemistry, physics, mathematics, mechanical and electrical engineering, and their

industrial applications. The programme encompasses a well-balanced curriculum that focuses on the development of theoretical concepts, practical engineering skills and teamwork.

All engineering faculty students are required to have at least eight months of practical internship as part of their degree programme. This is broken into two, four-month sessions in their second and fourth year.

This is part of UCSI University's Co-operative Education programme to ensure that all graduates are equipped with course and field-related real world job experience before they join the workforce.

Dr. Hikmat asserts that "A petroleum engineer's job is an exciting but demanding one. You get to travel worldwide as overseas assignments are aplenty. As a petroleum engineer, you will apply all the basic engineering sciences you have learnt, and use them to identify, formulate, and solve petroleum engineering problems. Challenges abound; it is a career path that has given job satisfaction to many."

■ *For more information on UCSI University's Engineering programmes, do visit the extended counselling hours from August 18- 29 between 10am-5pm and talk to the counsellors. The counsellors can also be contacted at 03-9101 8880 or visit: www.ucsi.edu.my/onlineenquiry/*



Prof Dr Hikmat showing the students the process involved in a typical petroleum engineering company.