

TAR UMT undergrads fulfil dreams

Sponsorship fuels pursuits of more than a dozen students

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KUALA LUMPUR: The first batch of 13 undergraduates from Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) will get to pursue their preferred courses following sponsorships from a Chinese firm and an educational institution.

Thanks to Eastern Steel Sdn Bhd (ESSB) and the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB), five students will pursue a Bachelor's degree in Metallurgical Engineering in a twinning programme.

They will spend two years in TAR UMT and another two years at USTB in China, with their tuition fees, accommodation and allowance paid for.

Eight others will pursue a four-year degree course in accounting and finance at the TAR UMT with all tuition fees covered.

The students received a special offer letter, witnessed by officials from ESSB and USTB, during the Malaysia-China (University-Industry Collaboration) Talent Development Programme Batch 1 opening ceremony at TAR UMT here yesterday.

Ng Jun Zhi, 18, said he looked forward to learning and excelling in metallurgical engineering at the university.

"The course started earlier this month and I am excited to continue. I am thankful for this opportunity, as I think my SPM results were just okay," he said.

The second of three siblings from Mentakab, Pahang, was also chosen as the student representative to deliver a speech at the ceremony.

Ng said he and his friends felt proud and honoured to be awarded the opportunity.

"We would like to thank Eastern Steel for the support, which allows us to enrol in the university of our choice and study in the

course we want.

"The bonded scholarships not only lessen the economic burden of our families, but more importantly, give us the strength and courage to go after our dreams.

"We pledge to make good use of our time to seek knowledge, achieve outstanding results and contribute to the company upon graduation," he added.

Ng said the ceremony also marked a significant start of a journey for all of them to learn and appreciate friendship and teamwork, and pursue excellence.

Also present at the ceremony were TAR UMT board of governors chairman Tan Sri Chan Kong Choy, USTB vice chancellor Prof Yu Chengwen, ESSB chief executive officer Wang Shenghua and other guests.

In his speech, Chan said the ceremony was a significant milestone for the university.

"This signifies the great start of collaboration among TAR UMT, USTB and ESSB. This is also an important juncture for TAR UMT on its international talent development pathway.

"From here, the students are embarking on a brand-new university journey, facing new challenges and opportunities.

"I hope all of you will appreciate this opportunity and have a great learning experience by utilising the university's resources and facilities, while achieving higher skills and capabilities," he added.

Chan said USTB and ESSB were not only important partners of TAR UMT, but also integral players in promoting Malaysia-China economic and education development.

"Moving on, I hope we will have more collaboration and explore more projects that benefit the people of both nations, strengthening our long-lasting bond," he said.



New milestone: TAR UMT board member Wong Cheng Siung (second from left), Prof Yu (fourth from left), Chan (sixth from left), Wang (sixth from right), TAR UMT president Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei (fourth from right) and ESSB director Datuk Tee Choon Hock (second from right) cutting the ribbon in conjunction with the Malaysia-China (University-Industry Collaboration) Talent Development Programme Batch 1 opening ceremony at TAR UMT. — SAMUEL ONG/The Star



Top tier: The 13 undergraduates from TAR UMT who get to pursue their preferred courses following sponsorships from an educational institution and a company in China. — SAMUEL ONG/The Star

Prof Yu, in his speech, called on students to cherish the opportunity by progressing and cultivating their global perspective.

"This programme is a model for China-Malaysia educational exchange and an important step in cultivating international talent. We believe it will contribute to global talent development.

"Our goal is to nurture high-quality talent with an international outlook, innovation and social responsibility," he added.

Wang, meanwhile, said he was happy to see the first batch of students commence their lectures after ESSB proposed an international talent programme to USTB and TAR UMT in 2022.

"Over the past two years, with TAR UMT's help, Eastern Steel has selected 15 outstanding students from across Malaysia as international talent trainees.

"I hope you will focus on your studies and contribute to Malaysia's steel industry. Be good seniors and role models for the next batch of trainees," he said.

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Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT), University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB), and Eastern Steel Sdn Bhd (ESSB) jointly launched a tripartite cross-border talent development programme on 30 July 2024. The Malaysia-China (University-Industry Collaboration) Talent Development Programme Batch 1 Opening Ceremony was graced by Tan Sri Chan Kong Choy, Chairman of the Board of Governors (BOG) of TAR UMT, accompanied by Mr Wong Cheng Siung, member of the BOG of TAR UMT, Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei, President of TAR UMT, Prof Yu Chengwen, Vice Chancellor of USTB, Mr Wang Shenghua, CEO of ESSB and Datuk Tee Choon Hock, Director of ESSB.

The programme will pave the way for 13 TAR UMT students to pursue their programme of choice with sponsorships from ESSB and USTB. Five out of the 13 students will be pursuing their bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering which is a twinning programme, spending their first two years in TAR UMT and the remaining two years in USTB. Meanwhile, the remaining eight students will be pursuing their bachelor's degree in accounting and finance at TAR UMT.



Tan Sri Chan, in his speech, expressed, " This event is not just a formality but a significant milestone for our students as they will embark on a new university journey, facing new challenges and opportunities. I hope our students benefitting from this programme will cherish this valuable opportunity and fully experience the wonderful campus life to continuously improve their professional skills and comprehensive qualities."

Professor Yu Chengwen stated, "This collaboration is a model of educational exchanges between China and Malaysia and an important effort for us to jointly cultivate international talents. We believe that through the joint efforts of all partners, this initiative will become a highlight for educational cooperation and contributions towards talent cultivation for both countries and even the global community."

Mr Wang Shenghua, in his speech, highlighted, "I am happy to see the launch of today's collaboration which is an ongoing effort spearheaded by ESSB in 2022 when we proposed an international talent cultivation plan, especially to produce professional talents in fields such as steel metallurgy. Throughout these two years, we visited many secondary schools in East and West Malaysia to identify outstanding students who met the criteria to join the programme and today, we can award the selected students with scholarships to complete the programme. I hope the students will make the best of the opportunity given to them where they will be able to contribute back to the country, particularly in the steel industry."

He also highlighted that among the interesting things the five students selected for the metallurgical engineering programme will be learning is how to manufacture 5G steel, with a minimum thickness of 0.07 mm, mainly used for 5G base station signal receivers, signal transmission filters, and integrated circuit boards.

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Ng Jun Zhi is one of the five students who shared his appreciation during the ceremony. "On behalf of all of us, the students, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to ESSB. It is because of ESSB's generous support that we can successfully enter the university of our choice and study our favourite major. This programme not only waives our tuition fees which reduces the financial burden on our families but more importantly, it gives us the motivation and courage to pursue our dreams."

"As a metallurgy student, I have the privilege of studying in TAR UMT and USTB. I firmly believe that the learning experience at both universities will not only enrich my knowledge but also broaden my horizons and lay a solid foundation for my future development."