

RESPONSIBILITY

UMK'S SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR CENTRE

It aims to train students to solve social problems, says VC

KOTA BARU

UNIVERSITI Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), also known as the Entrepreneurship University, will enter a new chapter 11 years after its establishment as the university was given the responsibility by the Education Ministry to become a social entrepreneur centre.

The centre would provide assistance to selected UMK entrepreneurship students, as well as students from other public universities.

UMK Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Husaini Omar said the centre would train students to realise that profits were not

the main reason to enter the business field, as they should focus on solving social problems.

He said the social entrepreneur centre, which was approved by the ministry this year, would have its first pilot project, which would involve 30 students, including two representatives from other public universities. It would start as soon as possible, he added.

"In the programme, students will be trained in three levels.

"The first level will be for one week. Those who performed well in the first level will enter the next level.

"If the students succeed in the second level, they will be asked to produce a working paper and table it to a panel comprising lecturers and representatives from their chosen business industry.



University Malaysia Kelantan has been given the responsibility by the Education Ministry to establish a social entrepreneurship centre. FILE PIC

"These students are also told to list down the impact on the society.

"If we find the working paper feasible, we will give them capital in terms of micro credit."



Professor Datuk Dr Husaini Omar

He said UMK's report on student graduation last year showed that 70 per cent of them landed a job after six months, either operating businesses or working in the government and private sectors.

"The report made us proud because UMK is only 11 years old. For our next target, we want about 80 per cent of our graduates to get a job after graduation.

"UMK students have the advantage because they undergo special entrepreneurship courses and it

was compulsory, regardless of their majors.

"Even when they were still at the university, we cooperated with the Companies Commission of Malaysia so that they could operate their own company.

"Up until now, 367 companies were set up, involving 649 students. We also identified those who are still active even after they have completed their studies.

"At the same time, UMK is in the middle of gathering information on former students to get updates on their direction, as well as those involved in business, and the public and private sectors."

He said to increase UMK's excellence level, the university would work with the government and its strategic partners to ensure that the university remained as one of the country's top institute of higher learning.

"This can be seen from the point of internationalisation.

UMK has been recognised by the introduction of its digital resources centre, followed by cooperation with overseas universities, like Seoul University in South Korea in environmental rehabilitation and preservation.

"Besides that, the American Corner by the United States embassy was also set up in UMK. This success proved that UMK is capable of becoming a regional referral centre."

To the 2,721 students who will soon graduate, Husaini hoped that they would be responsible for their families because without their parents' love, they would not be able to continue their studies.

"I hope graduates will make use of the space and opportunity given so that they will be successful in the future and continue the mission of finding knowledge.

"To be excellent people, graduates must always improve themselves in all aspects of life"