



Light moment: Wee (left) congratulating the candidates of TAR College-Gamuda Trainee Quantity Surveyors Programme.

Gamuda and TARC in training tie-up

Programme to produce top-notch quantity surveyors

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QUANTITY surveyor Shaun Lee Chun Hong remembers vividly how much at a loss he felt on completing secondary school 10 years ago.

He knew that his parents could not afford his studies after sending his three other siblings to university.

Fortunately, his prayers were answered when Gamuda Berhad visited his school in a small village in Taiping and presented to him the opportunity to be a quantity surveyor through its Trainee Quantity Surveyors Programme.

"It was a dream come true for me. The programme had helped me a lot, in fact I went on to pursue a degree after that with a scholarship from Gamuda," said the 31-year-old, adding that the profession had given him the chance to travel overseas for various eye-opening projects.

The programme was inaugurated in 1995 as an in-house training programme to provide suitably qualified school leavers higher education in quantity surveying and on-the-job training. Its reach has expanded from the first batch of 10 students to 21 now.

In its latest development, Gamuda collaborated with Tunku Abdul Rahman College to offer a joint training programme comprising a diploma course at the college and a training apprenticeship with the company.

A total of RM2mil has been allocated for the four-year programme, covering tuition fees, allowances, examination incentives, medical fees and resources such as books.

The programme was launched by Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong on Wednesday at the college's Setapak campus.

Wee said the TAR College-Gamuda collaboration was commendable as it would bring the best of both worlds in terms of job training experience and academic support to the employees.

"Of course such a learning model requires much collaborative planning and resources, but I can see the immense benefits and rewards for the



Milestone: Wee (centre) witnessing the exchanging of MoU between Gamuda Berhad executive director Ng Kee Leen (left) and TAR College principal Dr Tan Chik Heok at the launch of the TAR College-Gamuda Trainee Quantity Surveyors Programme at TAR College.



The lucky ones: Chastra Chandren (centre) with Mohd Nadzri (left) and Shaun Lee.

trainees when they graduate. I can foresee that they would be resilient professionals with multi-tasking capabilities and are market-ready the minute they graduate," he added.

Gamuda Berhad executive director Ng Kee Leen said the company had spent over RM10mil in training more than 100 quantity surveyors since the programme's inception.

"As a socially responsible group, one of our core concerns is the development, training and nurturing of human

capital through education. Over the years, we have invested over RM65mil on this corporate social responsibility initiative alone.

"We are excited and proud to be working with a premier institution like TAR College. We are confident that with your excellent academic standards and our engineering and construction expertise, the 21 trainees will get the necessary theoretical and practical training in their chosen fields," he said.

He said the candidates were selected through roadshows to schools in small towns and rural areas.

The selection this year was extended to four children's homes, he added.

Three of the candidates are from the children's homes. One of them, Chastra Chandren, 18, said he was happy and lucky to have been recruited. "I've always liked mathematics, I think I will enjoy this programme very much," he said.

Assistant manager Mohd Nadzri Nazir, 32, who was from the first batch of trainees, said: "The programme was tough but it certainly prepared the trainees for the large-scale projects they would take up in Gamuda," he said.