Big on banking

OCBC BANK (M) Bhd's inaugural internship programme involving Tun Haji Abdul Rahman College (TARC) students has turned out to be a hit with its business school students. The three-month attachment provided 12 students, aged between 21 and 23, with hands-on experience at one of Asia's largest banks. OCBC Bank was my first choice when selecting an internship programme," said Lim Kim Thai, a Business Economics student who hails from Selangor.

"The programme was comprehensive and gave me insights into what working in a bank is like," he said.

According to the bank's deputy CEO, Jeffrey Chew, the internship programme is in keeping with OCBC's mission to help individuals gain knowledge about the banking and financial arena in a disciplined and structured manner.

"This internship is part of the bank's human capital seeding initiative, which is in line with the government's call to develop skilled workers for the future.

"Our approach is to provide students with the relevant experience and then leave it to them to decide if working in a bank is their cup of tea," said Chew.

Guided by senior executives, the students attended sharing sessions, mentoring and coaching, as well as educational tours and attachments with various departments within the organisation. Their stint culminated in a presentation made to a committee comprising senior OCBC Bank personnel to ensure the students had internalised what they were taught.

"We were well taken care of and learnt not only how tellers and financial consultants handled their tasks but also how to serve walk-in customers," said banking and finance student Choong Chii Yang.

"The internship programme has been fruitful. Besides finding out more about how banking works, I can see that my students are now more confident and have developed good people skills as well," said TARC School of Business Studies head, Kho Sok Kee.

For details about the programme, visit www.ocbc.com.my.