The lukewarm response from the Chinese to join the Territorial Army is not new but Kole Tunku Abdul Rahman (Ktar) students are set to change the trend.

The college’s Territorial Army committee member Ng Sui Wee, 20, said there has been a keen interest among students to find out more about the corps this year compared with previous years.

“We hope to attract more Chinese at the campus level,” she said.

Its chairman Nicholas Sik Teck Hui said 94 participants from Perak took part in an intensive one-month basic course for new recruits in Ipoh recently.

“We learn about counter insurgency warfare, handling of basic military equipment, tactics and signals used by the army,” said Sik who just completed the course.

Ktar hotel management student Leow Kwai Hooi, 20, who joined the corps recently said he had been active in the uniformed units since his secondary school.

“I was involved in the police cadet and selected to undergo national service,” he said.

Leow said participation in such trainings helped to boost his confidence in decision-making.

“It has trained me to be tougher,” he said.

Leow said the hardest thing during the training was to deal with leeches and sand flies in the jungle but he learned to overcome it.

Kpt Lim Kuang Looi, Ktar’s supervisor for the school of social science and humanities courses, said the training was conducted on every first and third weekend of the month between 8am to 6pm.

The training, he said, covers physical as well as basic military tactical warfare.

Eager: Ng (left) and Sik said they noticed that more Chinese students were keen to join the territorial army.

“Team members will also be taken for outdoor activities like obstacle courses as part of the programme,” he said.

With the enrolment of new students, Kpt Lim said the committee members would be conducting a series of road shows to get new recruits.

Meanwhile, Ho Yung Fui, recommended to join the corps by Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman’s management team, said Ktar had about 80 members but most of them were not very active.

Nevertheless, he said there were new students who were keen to join the corps.