



**O**n 18 March 2014, as part of the state government's ongoing commitment to render assistance to students with limited financial means, 115 Bakun Trust Fund (BTF)-sponsored students were each presented with a 1Malaysia laptop contributed by Belaga Assemblyman, YB Liwan Lagang during a ceremony held at the PPKS Auditorium in Kuching. It was a momentous occasion which also witnessed the presentation of the Malaysian Skills Certificates (Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia) to 17 BTF-sponsored PPKS students.

The ceremony was graced by YB Liwan Lagang who represented Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr James Masing, Land Development Minister and Chairman of the Bakun Trust Fund. In addition to his portfolio as Assistant Minister of Culture and Heritage, YB Liwan Lagang is also the Chairman of the BTF Skills Education Committee.

In his speech which was read out by YB Liwan, Tan Sri Datuk



## 1Malaysia Laptops an Added Boost for Bakun Trust Fund Students

Amar Dr James Masing urged the laptop recipients, comprising students from various local institutions of higher learning including PPKS and i-CATS, to utilize the assistance provided to fulfill their objective of striving for excellence in their studies. He also highlighted that the state government would make skills training a priority to meet the increasing demand for a skilled workforce. For example, industries under the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) would require a sizeable workforce consisting of skilled and semi-skilled personnel. In this respect, he thanked PPKS and i-CATS for their commitment in providing skills training in technical and vocational fields. The 17 BTF-sponsored

PPKS students who received their Malaysian Skills Certificate during the ceremony were shining exemplars of the spirit of determination, to achieve one's goals.

During the ceremony, Dato Haji Baharudin Bin Haji Abdullah, Executive Director of PPKS commented that the emphasis on career focused learning at PPKS and i-CATS ensures that our graduates acquire the relevant technical and soft skills to meet and even exceed industry requirements.

Among those present at the ceremony were PPKS Chairman Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Abdul Aziz bin Dato Haji Husain, Dewan Negara Deputy Speaker Senator Datuk Doris Sophia Brodie and Yayasan Sarawak Director and BTF Treasurer Datu Mohamad Abu Bakar Marzuki.





**Linda John Tambie**  
Chief Editor

**W**elcome to the 2014 edition of the Workforce!  
The month of January 2014 kicked off with new intake whereby 2834 students registered in various courses at the main campus and its branches. The students undergone 1 week orientation programme while our student recruitment unit continued their marketing and promotional efforts. As part of our student recruitment drive, staff from inter department lending their support by participating in various exhibitions such as SCAT Fair, Borneo Post International Education Fair, organized skill camps in all parts of the State to share information about educational opportunities in PPKS/i-CATS.

PPKS/i-CATS also welcomed visitors from local and international higher education institutions such as Hi-Tech School, Suwon, South Korea, courtesy call by the Australian Maritime College, Tasmania and working visits by Gippsland TAFE Australia.

In conjunction with the upcoming 20th Anniversary Celebration, various planning and preparation has been lined up during the first quarter including logo design competition among staff. Apart than that, the staff of PPKS celebrated Chinese New Year gathering with an awesome performance of Lions Dance as an opening act.

In addition, a staff assembly was held for all staff of Kuching Branch, giving an opportunity for sharing updates on the latest development and the direction of PPKS/i-CATS in the year 2014. We welcome 40 new colleagues on board during the New Staff Induction Programme.

Let's continue to work together in facing 2014!



# C O N T E N T S

▶ 1 Malaysia Laptops an Added Boost for Bakun Trust Fund Students **1**

**Editor's Note** **2**

**Executive Director's Voice** **3**

**Achievement**

▶ JPK Recognition for courses offered by PPKS **4**

**Event**

▶ Korean Students Visit PPKS Staff Assembly 2014 **5**

▶ i-CATS Celebrates a Decade of Excellence **6**

▶ Memorandum of Cooperation Between i-CATS and SIT to Boost Workforce **7**

▶ PPKS Staff Attend Briefing on Workplace Fire Safety **7**

▶ Pictorials **8**

▶ i-CATS Organizes Health Talk and Screening **9**

**Training & Development** **10**

▶ Induction Course for New Staff Members Facilitates Transition to a New Workplace **10**

**Programmes & Studies** **11**

▶ Lifelong Learning @ PPKS **11**

**Staff Column** **12**

▶ Chinese New Year Gathering Brings Joy to PPKS/i-CATS Staff **12**

**Corporate Social Responsibility** **13**

▶ PPKS Brings Cheer to Residents of Rumah Amal Seri Murni **13**

**AWISAR** **14**

▶ Career Briefing by KKB Engineering Berhad Emphasizes the Importance of Industry-relevant Skills **14**

▶ On-the-spot Interviews and Job Offers a Testimony to the Quality of AWISAR's Automotive Students **14**

**PPKS Miri** **15**

▶ Blood Donation Campaign **15**

▶ PPKS Miri Participates in TVET Day at National Service Camps **15**

**PPKS Mukah** **16**

▶ STIDC & PPKS Mukah Organize Wood Carving Appreciation Course **16**

▶ PPKS Mukah's Dressmaking Open Day **16**



**PATRON**  
Dato Haji Baharudin Haji Abdullah

**ADVISORS**  
Hallman Sabri  
Mohd. Isham Fauzi  
Rambli Haji Hasbi

**CHIEF EDITOR**  
Linda John Tambie

**DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR**  
Stanley Gona  
Aini Afini Mohamad

**AREA EDITORS**  
PPKS ILMU - Amy Francis Najur  
PPKS AWISAR - Diana Ramping  
PPKS SEITI - Osman Hadami  
PPKS Kuching - Norashikin Dahlan  
PPKS Miri - Tuah Basir  
PPKS Mukah - Zainal Abidin Ahmad  
PPKS SAVTI - Mohd. Asri Hj. Salim

**PROOFREADERS**  
Rachel Kebing  
Abang Moasili Abang Abdul Samad  
Aduce Amiroi  
Herbert Buhod

**DESIGN & LAYOUT**  
Jaya Shahdilan

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Kamarulzaman Suief  
Sylvester William Awat  
Nur Rapizah Oden  
Nur Fahmi Raifi

**ADMINISTRATION & DISTRIBUTION**  
Abdul Kudus Lait  
Shalizza Fadzellawatty Yahya

**PRODUCTION**  
PPKS Production Sdn. Bhd.



*If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas on how we can be useful to you, please contact us at :*

**The Editor WORKFORCE Newsletter**  
Corporate Communications Unit, Pusat Pembangunan Kemahiran Sarawak  
Jalan Canna off Jalan Wan Alwi, Tabuan Jaya, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak.  
Tel : 082-364198 / 364148 Fax : 082-364197

*We are pleased to release the January to March 2014 issue of WORKFORCE, the quarterly official newsletter of Pusat Pembangunan Kemahiran Sarawak (PPKS). It features updates of events and happenings in PPKS. Comments and feedbacks are welcomed to further improve our next issue.*





As we celebrate 20-year journey of success, forget not the hardship and struggle that contributed to our achievement today. We had a humble beginning, starting off with only 8 staff and 25 students in 1995. As a technical education provider, we bear huge responsibilities in creating awareness on technical and vocational education. With the dedicated support from our partners and industry players, we continue to progress for the betterment. The years onwards has been rewarding as we continue to blossom and producing more than 40,000 students with more than 300 manpower as well as establishing 7 learning centres throughout the state.

PPKS/i-CATS always strive for advancing knowledge and enhancing our quality of teaching and learning. Our excellent track record was proven when early this year, a total of 37 skills programmes within PPKS Group was given recognition of 5-star and 4-star rating from the Department of Skills Development Malaysia (JPK). The ratings audit, conducted by JPK in the last quarter of 2013 aims to ensure all skilled training institutions achieve the highest standards in all skills programmes offered.

PPKS remain steadfast in ensuring the growth of human capital development by pursuing international collaboration to jointly conduct training and learning programme. The signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation with Southern Institute of Technology (SIT), Invercargill-New Zealand will pave the way for SIT programmes to be delivered partially in Kuching and student transfer to SIT Invercargill to complete their study. PPKS and SIT shares the similarities in providing technical and vocational programmes.

Let us continue to strive for efficiency and work harder to further enhance our image by continuously raising our standard and quality of our work.

Let us keep guided by our core values of i@PPKS and keep in mind our mission of to Meet Existing Needs of Human Capital Development by Providing Quality Technical Training and Education in-line with National Aspirations. 🇲🇾

**Dato Haji Baharudin Haji Abdullah**  
Executive Director PPKS & Chief Executive Officer i-CATS

**“Let us keep guided by our core values of i@PPKS and keep in mind our mission of to Meet Existing Needs of Human Capital Development by Providing Quality Technical Training and Education in-line with National Aspirations.”**



# JPK Recognition for courses offered by PPKS



Document audit by Department of Skills Malaysia

## PENARAFAN BINI 10 FEBRUARI



Opening speech by Dato Haji Baharudin, Executive Director of PPKS during Appreciation Dinner

In January 2014, the announcement of the rating of skills-based courses offered by the PPKS group of institutions, following an audit by the Department of Skills Development (Jabatan Pembangunan Kemahiran) last year, is indeed an affirmation of the group's reputation as a premier provider of technical and vocational education.

To recognize the commitment of staff members in fostering the objective of excellence in all areas of course management and delivery, the Technical

and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Department of PPKS organized a Staff Appreciation Dinner on 10 February 2014. Held at the Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching, staff members from PPKS headquarters, branches and subsidiaries attended the dinner. In his address, Dato Haji Baharudin bin Haji Abdullah, Executive Director of PPKS expressed his appreciation to all staff for their dedication and hard work. He also presented Certificates of Appreciation to the various PPKS institutions.

### PPKS Kuching

Course	Rating
Pemasangan & Penyelenggaraan Elektrik - Tiga Fasa	★★★★★
Pemasangan & Penyelenggaraan Elektrik - Satu Fasa	★★★★★
Konduktor Ladang	★★★★★
Juruteknik Rendah Elektronik Industri - Peralatan	★★★★★
Juruteknik Kanan Elektronik Industri - Peralatan	★★★★★
Pembuatan Pakaian Wanita	★★★★★
Pelukis Pelan Kejuruteraan Mekanikal	★★★★★
Mandur	★★★★★
Juruteknik Automasi Senior	★★★★★
Pembuatan Pakaian Wanita	★★★★★
Juruteknik Sistem Komputer	★★★★★
Artis DTP	★★★★★
Konduktor Ladang Kanan	★★★★★
Juruteknik Elektronik Industri - Peralatan	★★★★★
Penyelia Pemasangan & Penyelenggaraan HVAC	★★★★★
Pentadbiran Sistem Maklumat	★★★★★
Juruteknik Automasi	★★★★★
Pembangunan Produk Elektronik	★★★★★
Pembantu Eksekutif Sistem Komputer	★★★★★
Pelukis Pelan Kanan Kejuruteraan Mekanikal	★★★★★

### PPKS SAVTI

Course	Rating
Mandur	★★★★★
Konduktor Ladang	★★★★★

### PPKS Miri

Course	Rating
Juruteknik Automasi Senior	★★★★★
Pembantu Juruteknik Sistem Komputer	★★★★★
Juruteknik Automasi	★★★★★
Assistant Mechatronic Techno	★★★★★

### PPKS AWISAR

Course	Rating
Jurukimpal Arka Logam Berperisai (Keluli Karbon & Keluli Tahan Karat)	★★★★★
Pembantu Juruteknik Sistem Komputer	★★★★★
Juruteknik Kimpalan Arka Logam Berperisai (Keluli Karbon & Keluli Tahan Karat)	★★★★★
Jurukimpal Arka Logam Berperisai (Keluli Karbon)	★★★★★
Juruteknik Kanan Kenderaan Motor	★★★★
Juruteknik Kenderaan Motor (Motor Vehicle Technician)	★★★★
Juruteknik Automotif	★★★★

### PPKS Mukah

Course	Rating
Pembuat Pakaian Wanita	★★★★
Juruteknik Elektrik Rendah	★★★★
Pembantu Juruteknik Sistem Komputer	★★★★
Pembuat Pakaian Wanita Kanan	★★★★



# Korean Students Visit PPKS



The management of PPKS with the Korean students



Cultural performance by Kelab Serindang Seri Tari



Tour to the facilities

The New Year got off to a good start with PPKS opening its doors of welcome to visitors from Suwon Hi-Tech High School, Korea. Comprising high school students accompanied by their teachers, the first group of 44 students and 3 teachers visited PPKS Kuching campus on 7 January 2014, followed by a second group of 21 students and 4 teachers on 22 January 2014.

On arrival, the visitors were given a warm Sarawakian welcome in the form of a cultural performance by PPKS/i-CATS students from Kelab Serindang Seri Tari. In his welcoming speech, Dato Haji Baharudin Bin Haji Abdullah, Executive Director of PPKS emphasized on the importance of educational collaboration(s) between

institutions from Malaysia and Korea. With regard to Korean learning institutions, PPKS has established collaborations with Gumi University, Meister High School, Man & Tel and Hanback. Dato Haji Baharudin also highlighted that PPKS's collaboration with learning institutions and hi-tech providers would benefit both sides in learning and teaching including technology transfer. In this respect, PPKS is in the midst of planning for student exchange programmes, on-the-job training and Korean language classes. During the function, Dato Haji Baharudin also mentioned that direct flights between Kuching and Seoul would attract more tourists, investors and students from Korea, thereby boosting the state's effort in promoting

education tourism in Sarawak.

As part of the visit, our guests were given a guided tour of the campus which covered our teaching, training and support facilities. Madam Linda John, Corporate Communication Manager presented an overview of PPKS/i-CATS to the visitors.

Indeed, the visit was a wonderful learning experience for the Korean students. In addition to experiencing Sarawakian hospitality, they were able to gain an appreciation of the importance of tertiary-level education as a key to preparing oneself for today's global environment. 🌐

## Staff Assembly 2014

On 17 February 2014, a staff assembly was held in our PPKS Auditorium, Kuching to update all staff members on the latest developments in our organization. During his presentation, Dato Haji Baharudin Bin Haji Abdullah, Executive Director of PPKS presented an overview of various activities undertaken by PPKS over the recent months, strategic initiatives for 2014/2015 and projects in the pipeline. He also reiterated the

importance of upholding the core values of PPKS, namely innovation, passion, personal integrity, knowledge and synergy. Known as i@ppks, these values collectively form the foundation of our organization and the blueprint for our workplace culture.

During the assembly, Dato Haji Baharudin also presented certificates of appreciation to staff members who did not utilize their sick leave entitlement for the whole of 2013. A

total of 90 staff members, including our colleagues from PPKS branches and subsidiaries, received the certificate of appreciation. 🌐



Staff of PPKS/i-CATS listen attentively to strategic initiative for 2014/2015 by PPKS's Executive Director.





# i-CATS Celebrates a Decade of Excellence

*Cutting of 10th Anniversary cake*

**T**here was cause for celebration as members of the i-CATS family arrived at the Four Points by Sheraton Kuching on 10 January 2014 for an Appreciation Dinner organized in conjunction with the tenth anniversary of the establishment of i-CATS.

Many of the staff members were fashionably dressed according to the theme "Pink and Blue", adding a special touch to the ambience of the function. It was a night to remember, filled with a host of activities! In his welcoming speech, Dato Haji Baharudin Bin Haji Abdullah, Executive Director of PPKS and Chief Executive Officer of i-CATS thanked all staff for their contributions towards making i-CATS a leading tertiary education provider in the region. He also emphasized that the strong sense of camaraderie among staff members was a point of pride and a driving force in the development of the

college over the years. In line with the spirit of the occasion, those present were taken on a trip down memory lane during a slide show which featured many significant milestones along i-CATS's voyage of excellence over the past decade.

One of the highlights of the dinner was the presentation of appreciation gifts to twenty-three staff who have served for at least five years with the college. Indeed, their years of dedicated service have gone a long way in transforming the vibrant educational landscape of the college. There was also the opportunity to bid farewell to four colleagues and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

On a lighter side, to add to the merriment, staff members entertained their colleagues with an assortment of songs! The honour of King and Queen of the Night went to Mr. Abang Moasili and Ms Elderea Chali.



*King & Queen of the Night*



*Dato Haji Baharudin (centre) with the Long Service Award recipients (left to right) Ms. Kedani, Mr. Ephrem Ryan, Ms. Amy & Mr. Martin*



*The Quartet (left to right) Mr. Chai, Mr. Maklen, Mr. Tairini & Mr. Isham singing "Let Her Go"*



# Memorandum of Cooperation Between i-CATS and SIT to Boost Workforce



The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Cooperation between i-CATS, Malaysia and SIT, New Zealand at the Hilton Kuching

The signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on 22 March 2014 between the International College of Advanced Technology Sarawak (i-CATS) and the Southern Institute of Technology (SIT), Invercargill, New Zealand is indeed a significant milestone for both institutions in their quest to equip students with the relevant knowledge and skills to thrive as productive members of the workforce.

Signing on behalf of i-CATS was

Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Abdul Aziz bin Dato Haji Husain, President of i-CATS while SIT was represented by its Chief Executive Officer, Ms Penny Simmonds. The signing was witnessed by Dr Pita Sharples, New Zealand Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr Eric Roy, Deputy Speaker of New Zealand Parliament and MP for Invercargill, Mr David Pine, New Zealand High Commissioner to Malaysia, Dato Haji Baharudin bin Haji Abdullah, CEO of i-CATS, Mr. Mohamad Isham Fauzi, COO

of i-CATS and Mr. Rambli Haji Hasbi, Deputy Executive Director (Student Services) of PPKS/i-CATS.

Commenting on the MoC, Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Abdul Aziz highlighted that there are many similarities between i-CATS and SIT as both are committed to excellence in technical and vocational education. The signing of the MoC will go a long way in boosting workforce development initiatives by both institutions.

## PPKS Staff Attend Briefing on Workplace Fire Safety

On 21 March 2014, 20 PPKS staff members attended a half-day briefing on Workplace Fire Safety by Mr. Tahir, an Officer from the Fire and Rescue Department (Bomba), Tabuan Jaya.

The briefing, which was held at the PPKS/i-CATS main campus in Kuching, was part of the PPKS Group ongoing effort to foster a safety-conscious campus community. Following the briefing, Mr. Tahir and his team members demonstrated the proper use of a fire extinguisher.



Demonstration of the correct way to use a fire extinguisher by officers from Fire and Rescue Department





Visit from Australia Maritime College (AMC)



Visit from Swinburne University



Visit from KKB Engineering Berhad



Visit from UCTS, Sibul



Visit from MIDA



Sambutan Hari Maulidurrasul 2014



Visit from UKM



Program I-KIT & I-KEUNITA, Sri Aman





Orientation Day



Registration Day



TAME Assessment Day



JPK Election Day

## i-CATS Organizes Health Talk and Screening



Staff and student of i-CATS posing for group photo

On 13 February 2014, as part of its ongoing effort to foster awareness about preventive health care, the International College of Advanced Technology Sarawak (i-CATS) organized a Health Talk and Screening programme for staff of the Inland Revenue Board (Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri).

Held at the Kuching Branch of the Inland Revenue Board (IRB), approximately one hundred IRB staff registered for the talk(s) and free health screening. Under the guidance of Ms Catherine Pero (Head of Nursing, i-CATS) and Ms Rose Cheah (Clinical Instructor at i-CATS), our nursing students conducted the following health checks/tests: Body Mass Index (BMI), Blood Sugar Test and Blood Pressure Measurement.

During his talk entitled "Love Your Heart", Mr. Jerome Chen, i-CATS Lecturer, stressed on the importance of a healthy lifestyle and a balanced diet. During her talk on "Hypertension", Ms Catherine Pero highlighted various pertinent issues including the multi-pronged approach to hypertension management. She also briefed the audience on interpretation and understanding of the health check/test results.

At the end of the session, there was an exchange of mementos between Datin Josephine John, IRB State Director and Mr. Mohamad Isham Fauzi, Chief Operating Officer, i-CATS.



Nursing student conducting health screening





## Induction Course for New Staff Members Facilitates Transition to a New Workplace

**A**n induction course for new staff was held on 27 and 28 January 2014 at the PPKS/i-CATS main campus at Tabuan Jaya, Kuching. Organized for the Kuching region, a total of 40 staff members of the PPKS family (from AWISAR, i-CATS, SEITI and PPKS) participated in the course.

The purpose of the 2-day induction course, which was coordinated by the Talent Development Division, was to welcome and introduce new employees to the organization. At the commencement of the course, a pre-

test was administered to gauge the staff current knowledge of the PPKS group. One of the highlights of the course was the pledge by new staff members led by En Mohd Asri Abdullah, Chief Financial Officer. This was followed by the signing of the Letter of Undertaking (Surat Akujanji) before Dato Haji Baharudin Bin Haji Abdullah, Executive Director of PPKS.

During the induction programme, members of the Senior Management Team and Heads of School/Department conducted

briefings/sharing sessions on the PPKS group and structure, policies and procedures, organizational culture, types of courses offered and functions of various departments/units. On the second day of the course, the new staff members also participated in a game aimed at enhancing their knowledge of the PPKS Group.

At the conclusion of the course, a post-evaluation test was conducted. Indeed, the structured and supportive approach to welcoming new team members facilitated the transition to a new workplace. 🌟



*Ice-breaking session*



*Briefing by Chief Financial Officer*



# Lifelong Learning @ PPKS

In 2013 PPKS formed the Lifelong Learning Department with the objective of providing programs for reskilling and upskilling of workers and the public. With over 56-industry members, PPKS believe that the workers in these industries need to regularly upgrade their skills and knowledge.

The Lifelong Learning Department mission is to also provide a pathway to the member of the public to enroll to courses offered on a part-time basis at PPKS.

In future, Lifelong Learning Department would also offer both short, certificate, and diploma courses to the

public regardless of age and qualification. The mission is to provide skills and technical course readily available to everyone regardless of age, qualification and location.

The Lifelong Learning Department also will offer programs via online (e-learning) to cater for students located in location in areas that are not served by PPKS campuses in Sarawak.

Lifelong Learning Department currently offers IT Certification courses such as CompTIA A+, AutoCAD and also offer Accreditation of Prior Achievement (APA) programs that allows workers to obtain Sijil Kemahiran

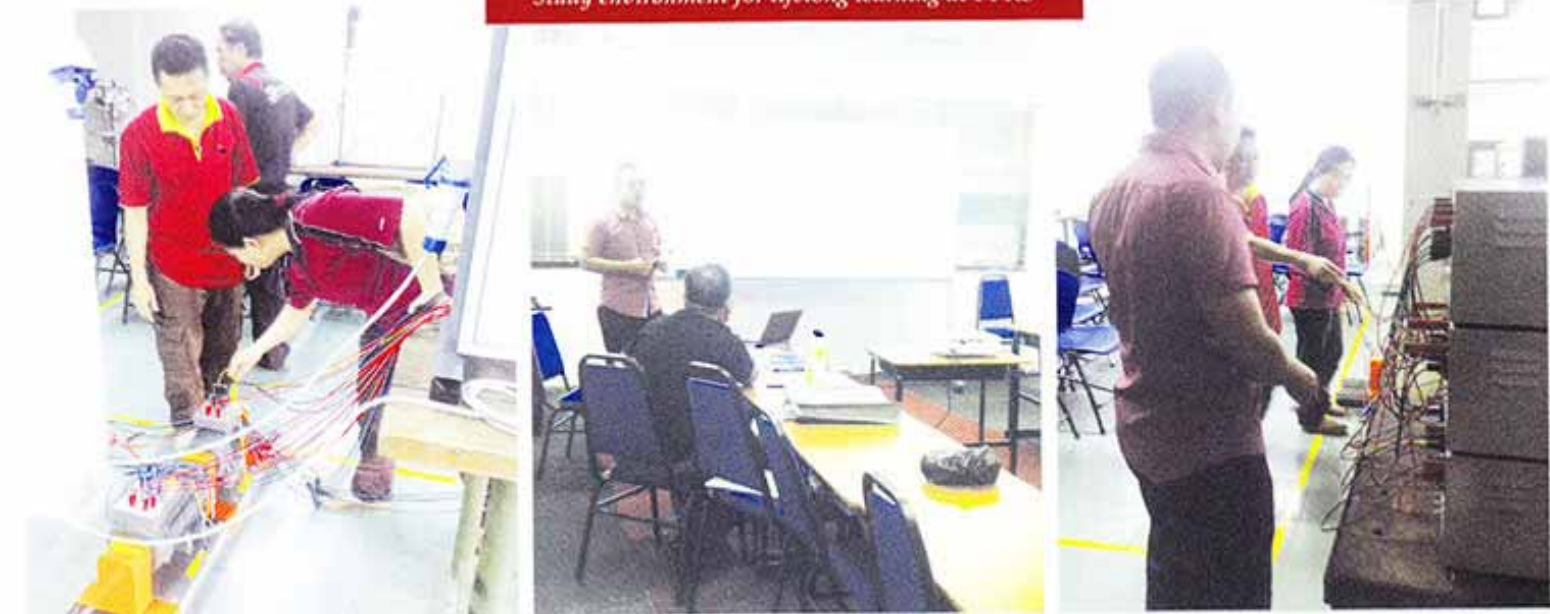
Malaysia (SKM) certification from Jabatan Kemahiran Malaysia (JPK). PPKS in collaboration with Asia E University (AeU) also offers Degree and Master Courses that are held during the weekend.

In 2013, the Lifelong Learning Department has trained 40 participants in advance tailoring courses as part of its mission.

For any inquires on Lifelong Learning Course @ PPKS contact En Zakri Md Salleh or Puan Siti Khatijah at 082-575777 or via email zakri@ppks.edu.my.



Study environment for lifelong learning at PPKS







## Chinese New Year Gathering Brings Joy to PPKS/i-CATS Staff

In conjunction with Chinese New Year, the PPKS Sports, Recreation and Staff Club organized a Staff Gathering on 13 February 2014 at our Tabuan Jaya Campus in Kuching.

True to the spirit of Chinese New Year, the gathering started with a Lion Dance Performance; a rousing welcome to the Year of the Horse! In his speech, Dato Haji Baharudin Bin Haji Abdullah, Executive Director of PPKS highlighted that the gathering was a wonderful opportunity for all staff to celebrate

Chinese New Year as one family.

To add to the joy of the occasion, a special celebration was held to congratulate newly-weds, staff who recently welcomed new addition to the family (newborn babies), and staff with birthdays in October, November and December 2013.

The staff gathering was a heartwarming experience as it enabled PPKS/i-CATS staff to enjoy the festivities and share some of life's joyful moments.



*Dato Haji Baharudin presented birthday gift to staff*



*Congratulation on your newborn!*



*The newlywed received gift from Dato Haji Baharudin*



*The Chinese New Year celebration 2014*



# PPKS Brings Cheer to Residents of Rumah Amal Seri Murni



Group photo students of PPKS/i-CATS with the children of Rumah Amal Seri Murni

**O**n 15 February 2014, a group of students from the Students' Representatives Council and Muslim Students Association of PPKS/i-CATS visited Rumah Amal Seri Murni located near Batu Kawa, Kuching. Coordinated by the Student Affairs Unit of the Registrar's Office, the purpose of the visit was to instil in the students, a sense of community and the importance of teamwork in facilitating the noble cause of service to humanity. The visit

was a follow-up to a visit last year to the home.

Rumah Amal Seri Murni has 50 underprivileged children under the care of Madam Khadijah who contributes as a volunteer to look after the children. Most of the children are orphans or come from broken homes. The youngest child is one month old and the eldest is 21 years old.

On arrival, the students participated in various activities such as



One of PPKS/i-CATS's students painting the fence



A happy face!

cleaning and painting. The students also entertained the children with a number of dance performances. During the visit, the students took the opportunity to present Madam Khadijah with various foodstuff and kitchen supplies.

Indeed, for the students, the visit to Rumah Amal Seri Murni went a long way in fostering an appreciation of the need to Work As One, for the betterment of society. 🙏



# Career Briefing by KKB Engineering Berhad Emphasizes the Importance of Industry-relevant Skills

The recent career briefing by KKB Engineering Berhad's management team was an eye-opener for the welding technology students of the Automotive and Welding Institute of Sarawak (AWISAR). Held at AWISAR's campus, Mr. Biswajit Das (Deputy Chief Operating Officer, KKB Engineering Berhad) and his team members highlighted that certified welders are in demand across the vibrant landscape of industry (e.g. in Construction, Manufacturing, Transportation, Maintenance and Repair, etc.).

Mr. Biswajit Das also briefed the audience on the various types of welding skills required by the various sectors and industry standards. For students to excel in their chosen profession as welders, it is of utmost importance that they acquire industry-



*Welding Technology students at the career briefing*

relevant skills during the course of their studies. In this respect, internships are a significant component of the learning process as students will be exposed to global best practices.

For our students, the career briefing brought home the importance

of acquiring the necessary industry-relevant technical skills. Indeed, combined with a positive attitude and repertoire of soft skills, our students have a head start in opening the doors to exciting careers in today's global environment. 🌐

## On-the-spot Interviews and Job Offers a Testimony to the Quality of AWISAR's Automotive Students

For AWISAR's final semester automotive students, the recent visit to the campus by four officers from TCIM Sdn Bhd to conduct on-the-spot job interviews signalled the dawn of the next phase of their voyage; the all-important step of applying for a job and the prospect of embarking on one's career of choice.

On arrival, the team from TCIM Sdn Bhd, led by Mr. Leong Chee Keong, Deputy General Manager of Sales (Sarawak) presented an overview of TCIM Sdn Bhd.

Incorporated in 1983, TCIM is a subsidiary of Warisan Tan Chong Holdings Berhad. The company deals primarily in material handling

equipment, construction machinery, agricultural tractors and power generating sets. In Malaysia, it is the sole distributor of Nissan Forklifts, John Deere Agricultural Tractors, SDLG Wheel Loaders, Terex Backhoe Loaders and Sumitomo Excavators. Currently, it has 18 branches all over Malaysia.

According to Mr. Syadidi Bin Ahmad (TCIM's Service Manager), at TCIM automotive graduates would start their careers as apprentices before being upgraded to the position of Junior Mechanic after a few months. He also highlighted that there were vacancies in the following areas: service and repair work, sale of machine parts, customer service and administration.

Four of our graduates (completed Automotive Level 3) who came for the interview were offered the position of Junior Mechanic. Eighty percent of the final semester Level 3 automotive students also received offers of employment (to commence their careers at various TCIM branches in Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu and Miri) on completion of their studies at AWISAR.

Indeed, the on-campus interview session by TCIM Sdn Bhd is an affirmation of the confidence employers have in AWISAR's leading-edge curricula and the quality of our graduates. 🌐



# Blood Donation Campaign

By : Muhammad Syukri Bin Basri

**O**n 12 February 2014, a Blood Donation Campaign was held at PPKS Miri campus to support the ongoing efforts by Miri General Hospital to replenish their blood stocks and to foster awareness of the importance of donating blood regularly.

Organized by PPKS's Student Affairs Department in collaboration with the Miri General Hospital, there was an air of excitement as staff and students came forward to participate in this noble cause. Following the initial medical examination/screening, a total of 30 PPKS/i-CATS staff and students donated blood on that day.

According to Mr Kenneth Numan, Assistant Information Officer from the Miri General Hospital, "The main objective of this campaign is to help the National Blood Bank reduce the

insufficiency of blood supply. This activity, initiated by the Sarawak Skills Development Centre (PPKS) Miri, benefits the community. We are also able to share information on health-related-issues with the staff and students." Mr. Benedict John, one of the Medical Laboratory Officers highlighted that with the cooperation and support of various organizations, blood donation campaigns facilitate their ongoing efforts to reach out to the community and encourage more members of the public to come forward and donate blood.

At PPKS/i-CATS, staff and students are aware of the importance of donating blood on a regular basis. The next Blood Donation Campaign is planned for August 2014 followed by another campaign before the end of the year.



Staff and students of PPKS Miri give full support to the campaign

## PPKS Miri Participates in TVET Day at National Service Camps

By : Muhammad Syukri Bin Basri

**I**n February 2014, the Workforce Development Unit in the Chief Minister's Department organized a TVET Day at the various National Service Training Programme (Program Latihan Khidmat Negara) camps in Sarawak. During the TVET Day, a number of public and private institutions of higher learning were invited to brief the national service trainees on the technical and vocational education courses offered by their respective institutions.

For PPKS Miri, the invitation to participate in the TVET Day was a wonderful opportunity to present the range of courses offered at Miri campus. In this respect, the PPKS Miri marketing team visited four national service camps, namely Sungai Rait (Miri), Junaco Park (Sibu), Bumimas (Sibu) and

Similajau (Bintulu).

At the various camps, Mr. Muhammad Syukri Basri (PPKS Miri Marketing Executive) presented an overview of the various courses offered at PPKS Miri. It was an informative session for the trainees as they were introduced to the broad spectrum of skills-based courses (leading to the award of the Malaysian Skills Certificate), academic courses as well as career pathways. The trainees also gained an appreciation of the impressive range of teaching and support

facilities at PPKS and the various forms of educational and financial assistance.

For the trainees, the TVET Day was an eye-opener as it served as an introduction to the world of technical and vocational education, and the prospect of gainful employment within Malaysia and distant shores.



Staff of PPKS Miri attend to queries and requests from students at the booth



# STIDC & PPKS Mukah Organize Wood Carving Appreciation Course



Group photo of the participants with PPKS and STIDC staff

With a view to fostering an appreciation of wood carving among youths, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) in collaboration with PPKS Mukah organized a 3-day wood carving appreciation course (Kursus Apresiasi Seni Ukiran Kayu) from 25 to 27 February 2014.

Held for the second time at PPKS Mukah, the 14 participants were introduced to the art of wood carving by Mr. Siswanto Tono, a Trainer from STIDC's Training Centre, Tanjung Manis

(Pusat Latihan Perkayuan PUSAKA Tanjung Manis). Mr. Siswanto, fondly known as Pak Sis, hails from Jepara, Central Java, Indonesia.

Prior to the hands-on assignments, Pak Sis introduced the participants to the different wood carving tools such as carving hammers, chisels, grindstones and carving brushes. This was followed by a demonstration of tool-handling techniques and advice on proper safe keeping of tools after use.

As part of their assignments, each

student had to carve a "Rehal" (a stand carved out of wood; usually used to place the Qur'an on) and a wood plaque. For the participants, there was a sense of excitement, even a sense of awe, as they transformed the raw materials (blocks of wood) into finished products.

During the ceremony to present certificates to the participants at the end of the course, Mr. Saili bin Lam (STIDC's Industrial Training Manager) who represented STIDC's Deputy General Manager, Tuan Haji Hashim Haji Bojet, commented that he was impressed with the commitment by the participants during the course. He also encouraged those who are keen on a career in woodworking to undertake full-time training in wood carving and furniture-making at STIDC's Training Centre in Tanjung Manis. The distinction of Overall Best Participant went to Mr. Zuraimi bin Rajeli from Kampung Tega.

## PPKS Mukah's Dressmaking Open Day

Students of PPKS Mukah's Women Dressmaking course had the opportunity to showcase their creations to visitors during the Open Day(s) at the Mukah campus on 27 and 28 February 2014.

Visitors to the Open Day were treated to a colourful assortment of creations by the students; a testimony to our students' creative flair and tasteful fashion sense! The demonstration of the use of various types of sewing equipment highlighted the importance of manual dexterity and having a keen eye for detail.

During the Open Day, the students were also exposed to the finer points of professional presentation and gained an appreciation of the various aspects of entrepreneurship as they promoted their creations and interacted with members of the public. It was also



Visitors visit one of the booths during the Open Day

heartening to see the students proudly wearing their creations; a sure sign of confidence in one's products!

Professional dressmaking is indeed an exciting career that requires one to strive for excellence. For PPKS Mukah's dressmaking students, they are well aware that success in this

profession starts by building a firm foundation of essential skills during the course of their studies. This foundation, combined with one's wellspring of creativity and inspiration, and a positive attitude, go a long way in facilitating one's voyage towards the realization of career goals.