PPK267/06/2011(029874)

NATION'S FUTURE

www.ppks.edu.my / www.icats.edu.my

VOL. 62 APRIL - JUNE 2014

The official newsletter of Pusat Pembangunan Kemahiran Sarawak (PPKS)



Courtesy Call on the Chief Minister of Sarawak

On 9 April 2014, a delegation from PPKS, led by the Chairman of PPKS, Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Abdul Aziz bin Dato Husain and Executive Director of PPKS, Dato Haji Baharudin Haji Abdullah paid a courtesy call on The Right Honourable Chief Minister of Sarawak, Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem.

During the visit, PPKS officials conveyed their congratulations to Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem on his new appointment as Chief Minister of Sarawak and thanked the state government for its support. The team also updated the Chief Minister on PPKS's achievments, latest development and future plans. To date, PPKS has trained more than 40,000 trainees under

various skills enhancement, preemployment, academic and technical programmes. PPKS has also expanded its operations in Sarawak. Currently, there are seven training centres in Kuching, Miri and Mukah. In conjunction with the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of PPKS, an invitation was extended to the Chief Minister to officiate PPKS's 20th Anniversary Dinner in October.

Tan Sri Aziz also shared with the Chief Minister that following its successful bid in Australia last year, PPKS will be hosting the World TVET Conference in 2015. Approximately 1,000 delegates from around the world are expected to attend the conference which is organized

in collaboration with the International Vocational Education and Training Association (IVETA) and the Sarawak State Government. Also in attendance during the visit were PPKS's officials, namely Mr Hallman bin Sabri, Deputy Executive Director of Corporate Services, Mr Mohd Isham bin Fauzi, Deputy Executive Director of Education & Training, Mr Rambli bin Haji Hasbi, Deputy Executive Director of Student Services and Mr Mohd Asri bin Abdullah, Chief Financial Officer.



i@ppks - Innovation, Personal Integrity, Passion, Knowledge, Synergy



Linda John Tambie Chief Editor

\mathbf{V} elcome to the 2^{nd} Quarter of 2014!

On 21 May 2014, in a humble ceremony at the Riverside Majestic Hotel, Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Abdul Aziz bin Dato Haji Husain, Chairman of PPKS unveiled the winning PPKS 20th Anniversary Logo. This year, in conjunction with the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of PPKS, many exciting events are scheduled throughout the year, culminating in the 20th Anniversary Dinner to be held on 31 October 2014. The PPKS 19th Annual General Meeting was also held on 21 May 2014. On the agenda was the election of Management Council Members (2014 to 2017 Session). Students of PPKS/i-CATS extended

a helping hand to the community through their Student- Friendly Sessions at Pantu, Sri Aman. Organized by the Students' Representative Council of PPKS/i-CATS, the students promoted various motivational and awareness programmes and shared their student-life experiences with the parents and youth. The sharing sessions broadened the parents' perspective of technical education and the range of educational opportunities for their children. Touching the lives of the elderly, PPKS's Corporate Service Department initiated a community programme which brought cheer to the residents of Rumah Seri Kenangan Kuching. During the visit, the staff organized various activities and interacted with the residents. Indeed, it was a special day for our colleagues and the residents of Rumah Seri Kenangan Kuching. A special gathering was held for teaching staff to commemorate Teachers' Day. In his speech, Dato Haji Baharudin bin Haji Abdullah, Executive Director of PPKS elaborated on the role(s) of teachers in inspiring their students. Apart from the ongoing promotional and marketing activities, the PPKS/I-CATS team also hosted visits from school representatives from Pontianak, Kalimantan Barat and Principals from Sabah, as well as delegates from the media.



Dato Haji Baharudin Haji Abdullah

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> We are pleased to release the April to June 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.

Published by: Pusat Pembangunan Kemahiran Sarawak (PPKS) lalan Canna Ōff Jalan Wan Alwi, Tabuan Jaya 93350 Kuching, Sarawak.

As a well-established technical training provider, PPKS continues to strengthen its position in its mission to provide quality technical training. In our 20 years of operation, we are thankful for the support of the state government and various stakeholders for their trust in PPKS.

It was indeed an honour to have been given the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on The Right Honourable Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem, the new Chief Minister of Sarawak. During the visit in April, the management team of PPKS congratulated The Right Honourable Chief Minister on his appointment and updated him on the latest developments in PPKS including the upcoming IVETA World TVET Conference 2015.

A delegation led by Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Abdul Aziz bin Dato Haji Husain, Chairman of PPKS paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Head of State Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud at Astana Negeri in May. We briefed His Excellency on our upcoming 20th Anniversary Dinner and invited His Excellency to grace the dinner in October.

As part of our ongoing effort to internationalize our academic programmes, we embarked on a working visit to Pontianak, Kalimantan Barat to introduce the International College of Advanced Technology Sarawak (i-CATS) to the community. A special programme preview was held for the local media and representatives from various secondary schools. All participants were invited to visit Kuching and experience campus life at i-CATS.

To prepare students for the global economy, we conduct regular benchmarking visits to the best institutions around the globe. Our recent working visits to Australia and New Zealand opened the doors of opportunity with potential partners in terms of conducting programmes offered by overseas institutions in Kuching and joint research opportunities.

We are delighted to welcome our new members, namely Serba Dinamik Sdn Bhd, Sarawak Information Systems SdnBhd (SAINS) and KKB Engineering Berhad. We believe the support and involvement of our members will propel PPKS to greater success.



New Zealand opened the doors of opportunity with potential partners in terms of conducting programmes offered by overseas institutions in **Kuching and joint** research

opportunities."

"Our recent working

visits to Australia and

Dato Haji Baharudin Haji Abdullah

Executive Director PPKS & Chief Executive Officer i-CATS



Succesful IT Students in the Job's Market

-CATS's School of IT has been established since 2003. The school consists of 7 lecturers and 2 lab assistant. So far, the school has trained more than 100 students and now the graduates from the schools are successful ones

and i-CATS is very proud to have the opportunity to interview some of the students. Below are the information taken:

Name : Eva Snelus

: MAXIS & SKMM **Employer**

: IT Trainer **Post**

Place of work : Community Broadband Centre,

Kampung Serasot, Bau.

Job Description:

- 1. Assist Manager
- 2. To train IT for the underserved area
- 3. To do marketing / expose networking in marketing for rural area



Name : Voon Boon Sin

Company Name : Kenbest Sdn Bhd (Property Developer)

: Admin Clerk (IT cum Purchasing) Job Description: Maintain company website and mail

> server. Advise management on computer software and hardware. In charge of company project material

purchasing and recording.





The management team and organizing committee pose for a group photo.

n conjunction with the 20th Anniversary Celebration, Pusat Pembangunan Kemahiran Sarawak has launched its official logo to mark the 20th Anniversary celebration. The event was held on 21 May 2014 at Riverside Majestic Hotel. The ceremony was a kick off for month long activities that has been scheduled throughout the year.

The launching ceremony was graced by Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Abdul Aziz bin Dato Haji Husain, Chairman of PPKS and in the

presence of Dato Haji Baharudin Haji Abdullah, Executive Director of PPKS, Management Council Members, PPKS's Members and staffs.

Among activities in the pipeline will be the Oratory competition among secondary schools around Kuching, Run Competition, instagram contest, photography contest and spot the car contest. The main highlighted programme is the Gala Dinner for the Celebration, to be held on 31 October 2014.







he 19th Annual General Meeting of the PPKS Group of Companies was held on 21 May 2014 at the Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching for the election of Management Council Members (2014 – 2017 Session). Below were the distinguished members of the Management Council for the 2014 - 2017 session.

YBhg Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Abdul Aziz bin Dato Haji Husain Sarakoppes Sdn Bhd

Mr Shamsur Bin Taha **PETRONAS Sarawak Regional Office**

Tuan Haji Hashim Bin Haji Bojet Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation [STIDC]

Dr Saadiah Abdul Samat Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara [DBKU]

Secretary

Dato Hajjah Maznah Binti Dasmi Abdul Rahim, Sarkawi, Razak Tready, Fadillah & Co. Advocates

Treasurer

Tuan Haji Hilmy Bin Othman Hizone Sdn Bhd

Exco Member

Tuan Haji Ibrahim Bin Haji Baki Gegasan Sdn Bhd

Y.Bhg Datuk Aidan Wing Hornbill Skyways Sdn Bhd

Mr Petehi Bin Hipli Sarawak Energy Berhad

Mr Eric Kiu Kwong Seng Sarawak Oil Palms Berhad

Mr Andrew Wee Chio Huat Samling Group of Companies Y.Bhg Tan Sri Datuk Sir Tiong Hiew King Rimbunan Hijau Group

> Mr Kho Pok Tong KKB Engineering Sdn Bhd

Ir Haji Zuraimi bin Sabki Brooke Dockyard and Engineering **Works Corporation**

Mr Sie Ing Kuok KTS Timber Industries Berhad

Appointed Members

Y.Bhg Dato Teo Tien Hiong Sarawak Information Systems Sdn Bhd [SAINS]

Dr Abdul Rahman Deen Workforce Development Unit, Chief Minister's **Department**

Y. Bhg Datu Haji Mohamad Abu Bakarbin Marzuki Yayasan Sarawak

> Y.Bhg. Datu Liaw Soon Eng Ministry of Industrial Development Sarawak, Chief Minister's Department

Y.Bhg Datu Haji Ismawi bin Haji Ismuni State Planning Unit, Chief Minister's Department

Prof. Dr. Wan Hashim bin Wan Ibrahim University Malaysia Sarawak [UNIMAS]

Teacher's Day Celebration

For the academic members of PPKS (Pusat Pembangunan Kemahiran Sarawak) and i-CATS (International College of Advance Technology Sarawak), the Teacher's Day Celebration was not only an opportunity to reflect on their contributions over the past twelve months, it was also a time to take stock of the upcoming challenges as educators.

More than 120 teaching staff attended the function at the PPKS/i-CATS main campus at Tabuan Jaya, Kuching. In his speech, Dato Haji Baharudin Bin Haji Abdullah, Executive Director of PPKS and CEO of i-CATS thanked all the academic staff for their contributions in preparing the younger generation to become responsible citizens, equipped with the relevant knowledge and skills to thrive in today's global environment. He also emphasized the importance of



Happy Teacher's Day!

creating an environment where the learning process can florish.

Some of the activities done then were recitation of pledge led by Mr. Michael Entalai the Head of School of Plantation and Mr. Koeswandy Bin Abd Razak the Head of Unit of Information Technology,

cutting of the Teacher's Day cake by members of the PPKS/i-CATS Senior Management and Head of Schools/ Units as well as presentation of tokens of appreciation to teaching staff followed by lunch.

Student's Friendly Sessions with Longhouse Community

he Students' Representative Council of PPKS/i-CATS organized a community programme at Sebemban-SelanjanPantu, Sri Aman from 2 to 4 May 2014. The programme was officiated by YB Datuk Mong Dagang, Assistant Minister for Agriculture Sarawak.

With the objective of motivating the younger generation to excel in their studies, various activities were held during the three-day event. As part of the community programme, the staff and students briefed the longhouse community on he various educational opportunities at PPKS/i-CATS. addition, awareness In programmes were conducted such as

health education by the nursing students and fire-fighting techniques

by the Fire & Rescue Department. nursing students also conducted basic health screening (body

mass index and glucose screening) and blood pressure monitoring under the close supervision of i-CATS instructors. Students of various courses also took the opportunity to showcase their final projects during the exhibition.

It was indeed an informative and fun-filled programme with various

> other activities such as group exercises, cultural performances and outdoor games. The students also assisted with the meal preparation and took part in the cleaning of

the longhouse compound. YB DatukMongDagang commended the students for their efforts and expressed his hope that similar programmes would be organized in other parts Sri Aman.







Outcome-Based Education Workshop



Group photo

utcome-Based Education or better abbreaviated as OBE has been advocated by the Malaysian Ministry of Education (MOE) as the basis for higher education in Malaysia. International College of Advanced Technology Sarawak (i-CATS) was among one of the higher educations in Sarawak which offers many firstrate courses. Therefore, as a higher education institution, it is essential for us to master the basic requirement to be an excellent and a high- quality institution surpassing the other education institutions. For that reason i-CATS had organized OBE workshop for all i-CATS staff from all campuses within Sarawak including all Heads of Units of Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET)

from **Pusat** Pembangunan KemahiranSarawak (PPKS).

Considered as the biggest training or workshop ever organized

by **PPKS** since early 2014, number of 88 staff participated

meaningful event. Organized for two days from 24 until 25 May 2014, the workshop aimed to expose participants with the concepts, philosophies and principles of OBE as well as why or how OBE should be implemented in higher learning education, as urged in the government's policies and regulations.

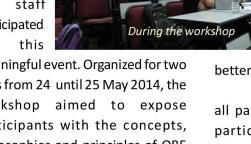
An OBE expert, Haji Mohamed Nadziri bin Mohd. Yusuf was invited to help and coach theparticipants on the subject matter. Working as a lecturer at UiTM Puncak Alam, he also works as a consultant and auditor with the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA). His vast experience includes handling OBE workshops for other higher institutions all over Malaysia since 2011 and to date he has delivered 65 presentations and lectures.

The two day workshop was fun and enjoyable as participants were involved actively in the

> discussion. The facilitator shared his knowledge and expertise, including facts with comprehensive explanations for

better understanding.

The facilitator complimented all participants for their excellent participation throughout the workshop and for rising up various issues during the Q&A session. The great teamwork and cooperation among the staff had made the workshop a successful meeting.



Quality Enhancement Through Team Building Programme

Prks/i-CATS Miri had held a team building programme for its staff at Borneo Tropical Rainforest Resort, Miri from 10 till 11 May 2014. The 2 days and 1 night Team Building

Programme aimed to strengthen the relationship amongst staff and enhancing the quality of work culture. Various activities were conducted during the programme that included

motivational talks, outdoor games, karaoke sessions, group presentations, dinner and many other exciting activities.

i-CATS's Mechanical Engineering Programme Emphasizes a Balance between **Innovation and Societal Needs**

ne of the central tenets of the Diploma in Mechanical Engineering programme at (DME) International College of Advanced Technology Sarawak (i-CATS) is that true innovation, far from being a flash-in-the-pan fad, benefits society as a whole.

At i-CATS, mechanical engineering students appreciate the importance of innovation and technological advances in fostering an environmentally sustainable society. In this respect, a major point of pride is the i-CATS Green Technology Laboratory which enables engineering students to acquire theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the study of hydro power technology, solar photovoltaic technology, wind turbine technology and various other sources of renewable energy. This enriches the mechanical engineering curriculum which covers the design, manufacture and maintenance of mechanical devices for industrial processes. It is this exposure to cutting-edge technologies coupled with a strong foundation in the core principles and practice of mechanical engineering acquired during the three-year DME programme which gives i-CATS students the competitive edge as they prepare for careers in the field of mechanical engineering or further studies at the degree-level.

With full accreditation by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), the DME programme is open

to students who have completed SPM/SPMV with a minimum of three credits including Mathematics and one science subject. Applications will also be considered for those who have completed an MQA Accredited Certificate in Engineering/ Technology programme with a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0.

Industrial visits are an integral part of the holistic learning experience at i-CATS, facilitating the learning experience of students during the course of their studies. Indeed, gaining insights directly from the industry brings to life various concepts taught in class and is a step in the right direction as one prepares to be world-ready.

To add to their repertoire of technical and soft skills, during the course of their studies students also take management, entrepreneurship and communicationsubjects. In addition to a final-year project, prior

to the completion of the DME programme students are required to undergo a 3-month internship. This ensures that the students have the opportunity to learn directly from the industry and gain real-world work experience at world-class organizations.

In the twenty-first century, trailblazing advances in the development of new technologies, products and services have resulted in a wide range of career opportunities for mechanical engineering graduates across the length and breadth of modern-day industry in sectors such as automation, automotive, aerospace, biotechnology, computers, electronics, energy conversion, environmental control and other manufacturing-based activities. Indeed, backed by i-CATS's emphasis on career-focused learning, the DME students are well prepared to excel in their chosen professions.





Corporate Services Department has organized a short

staff retreat on 13 and 14 June 2014. Held at One Hotel, Santubong, the

programme has been attended by 41 staff of the Corporate Services Department. The programme kicked off on Friday morning at Rumah Seri Kenangan, Kota Samarahan where all CS staff fulfilled their social obligation for a CSR programme. After the programme ended, the group continues their journey to One Santubong Hotel for the staff retreat.

Upon arrival, the staff participates in an exciting ice-breaking session and

Corporate Service Staff Retreat

were then divided into five groups, namely; Ikan, 7 up, United, The buttons and Fear Factor. The activities conducted brought together mutual understanding and foster close relationship between them. Among the activities being conducted was an Ice Breaking Session, Find our Mission & Vision, Dikir Barat Competition, Menara Impian Competition, and

Sessions with the Deputy Executive Director Corporate Services,

> exchange of gifts and presents and also outdoor activities. The programmes have been

successful and all staff was having fun and refreshing session. We do hope this session will be continued in future.



A session with DED CS, Mr. Hallman



Outdoor games



Group Presentation



The overall champion group 'Ikan' during one of the competition



n 13 June 2014 staff members Corporate the Services Department of PPKS visited Rumah Seri Kenangan (RSK) in Kota Samarahan as part of the department's effort to contribute towards the betterment of society.

On arrival, the visitors were

taken on a tour of the facilities. There is always something special about a visit to Rumah Seri Kenangan; the radiating joy from the elderly residents as they extend a warm welcome to the visitors!

During the visit, the PPKS staff assisted to prepare breakfast and lunch

for the residents of RSK The highlight of the visit was a get-together in the main hall. The various activities organized by the PPKS staff members, including the karaoke session, brought much joy to all present. Indeed, for the staff of the Corporate Services Department, the visit to RSK left lasting footprints in one's heart.



Karaoke time!



A token of appreciation to Rumah Seri Kenangan

To care for those who cared for us is one of the hiahest honours Tia Walker. The inspired care given: Finding joy while caring for those you love.



Preparing lunch for the elderly.



Final Exam at AWISAR

Competence and qualified graduates from skills training institute addresses the ongoing human resource need by companies operating in internationally competitive business environment.

Industrial standard and job-specific skills complemented with theoretical training had enable AWISAR to produce excellent development potential workforce for these companies. 🙈



After the exam, happy moment! Posing for a group photo with the examiner from INSTEP after completion Petronas Advance Welding Certificate Training.



Welding Level 3 students were being assessed by External Examiner of Jabatan Kemahiran Malaysia (JPK) during final practical examination

i-CATS Nursing Student participates in Charity Sale

n 4 May 2014, a group of second semester nursing students from the International College of Advanced Technology Sarawak (i-CATS) participated in the Open Day Sale organized by the Sarawak Association for the Welfare of Intellectually Disabled Children (PERKATA Sarawak).

Held at PERKATA's premises at Jalan Ong Tiang Swee, Kuching, the students set up a stall to sell kacang ma (a local delicacy), farm-fresh eggs, kedondong (local fruit), bottled mineral water and a variety of plants such as asparagus, basil, dill and red grapes. Under the guidance of Ms Rose Cheah and Ms Winnie Tang,

Clinical Instructors at i-CATS, participation in the Open Day Sale was an affirmation of i-CATS's ongoing commitment to advance the noble cause of service to humanity.

For the students, managing the stall during the Open Day Sale enabled them to gain an appreciation of the various skills needed such as planning, organizing and people skills. Indeed, amidst the sea of friendly competition, entrepreneurial flair and people skills went a long way in promoting the various products during the event. Proceeds from the sale were donated to PERKATA. 🙈



Group photo with lecturer



Students entertaining guest

Good response for PPKS/i-CATS Miri 'Open Day 2014'

By: Muhammad Syukri Bin Basri

PKS / i-CATS Miri had successfully organized an 'Open Day 2014' on the 26-27 April 2014 at it's premise in Lutong. The Open day was officiated by YB Dennis Ngau, ADUN for Telang Usan and witnessed by Mr. Hallman Hj. Sabri, PPKS's Deputy Executive Director (Corporate Services). The event aims to promote PPKS / i-CATS's Lutong Branch to members of the public and provide an opportunity for them to gain insight of the education programme and learning facilities available.

The event received overhelming response and support from the students, staffs and members of the public. Various activities were held during the two days 'Open Day' including auto show, Tamiya contest, innovation challenge, bazaar, lucky draw, karaoke, indoor games and education counselling services.

In addition, the open day has been an opportunity for the members of the public to witness student activities and their participation in student leadership community outreach programmes, academic and social events.





he staff of i-CATS Miri participated in the annual "EkspoPendidikan Mara Negeri Sarawak" by MajlisAmanah Sarawak from 14 and 15 of June 2014 at Bintang Megamall Shopping Complex, Miri. The programme was conducted with the purpose of giving the needed exposure and guidelines of education to the public, especially the SPM / STPM school leavers who wish to further their education at a higher education institution.

Motivational Talks for SPM/STPM Candidates

uring the third week of June, PPKS / i-CATS Miri organized motivational talk sessions namely "Pembugaran Minda, Hala Tuju Pendidikan & Kerjaya" for secondary schools in Miri City.

The purpose of the programme was to motivate the students towards preparing for their SPM and STPM examinations. The student was giving a briefing on education and training opportunities available at PPKS / i-CATS Miri.

A motivational talk that lasted for 2 hours was delivered by Mr. Muhammad Syukri Basri during each session. Among the schools involved in the program were SMK Pujut, SMK Lutong, SMK Dato Permaisuri and SMK Chung Hua. The programme shall be held at several other schools based on schedules arranged by the PPKS / i-CATS and also the counselling teachers of the respective schools.



Study visit by Kelab Kemahiran Hidup Bersepadu SMK Mukah

PKS Mukah was thrilled to welcome students of Kelab Kemahiran Hidup Bersepadu (Kelab KHB) SMK Mukah on 30 April 2014. The delegates of 76 students were accompanied by their teachers and greeted by the management team and instructors of PPKS Mukah. Upon arrival, the visitors proceed to the multipurpose hall for a briefing by Mr. Mahathir bin Abang, who shared on the institution's background as well as the career prospects in the technical and vocational field. He also highlighted on the role of the Department of Skills Development, Ministry of Human Resources and the implementation of skills training under the SijilKemahiran Malaysia (SKM) certification. Earlier, a short video on the matter, 'Man Pomen' was

shown to the audience. The visit ended with a tour around the campus.



Briefing Session



Momento Presentation



Group Photo

Orientation Week at PPKS Mukah



PKS Mukah organized an Orientation Week for new intake of Women Dressmaking and Single Phase Electrical Installation and Maintenance Courses from 14-21 May 2014. The orientation week was held to familiarize the students with the campus lifestyle and to foster good relationship between the students and staffs. During the orientation week, the students participated in the activities such as ice-breaking session, first aid briefing, fire safety briefing, anti-drug programme, gotong-royong, Futsal, leadership programme and on Campus rules and regulation.

In his speech during a students & staffs session, PPKS Mukah's Acting Campus Director advised the students to make use of their learning time at PPKS Mukah to fulfill their ambitions. He also expressed his appreciations for the support rendered by JPAM Daerah Mukah, AADK Daerah Sibu, AADK Daerah Mukah, PejabatBelia Dan Sukan Bahagian Mukah, KemBeliaMukah, Alumni PPKS Mukah, Mukah's Tenthdiv Ultras and others towards making the PPKS Mukah 2014 Orientation Week a success. 🙈