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Publication	: The Star Online
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METRO NEWS

Tuesday, 10 Jul 2018



By M. Mageswari



Prof Dr Kamal (second from right) and Dr Mohd Uzir (second from left) exchanging documents at the MoU signing. With them are DOSM deputy chief statistician (Social and Technical Development programme) Nazaria Baharudin (left) and Uniten's Business Management and Accounting College dean Assoc Prof Dr Bakhtiar Alrazi.



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UNIVERSITI Tenaga Nasional (Uniten), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), has urged more professionals to take part in the Industrial PhD programme.

Its vice chancellor Datuk Prof Dr Kamal Nasharuddin Mustapha said flexibility is offered for those who want to enrol in the Industrial PhD programme.

He said Uniten offered the programme mainly for TNB managers and engineers when it started about six years ago.

He said three TNB engineers enrolled for the programme in 2016.

“We want to have more (professionals),” he said.

He said the professionals only need to identify the research projects and discuss with Uniten academicians for supervisonal arrangements at their workplace.

Furthermore, he said Uniten provides technical advice on research methodology.

“They can get sanction from the related company for the Industrial PhD.

“We have TNB and a few other industrial companies which have been participating in this programme,” he told reporters after the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Uniten and Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

Prof Dr Kamal represented Uniten while Chief Statistician of Malaysia Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin acted for DOSM.

With this collaboration with DOSM, scientific studies and research in Uniten could be enhanced by having access to related statistical data especially demographic and micro-socioeconomic data.



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Prof Dr Kamal said that the move would also help Malaysia meet its target of producing 60,000 PhD holders by 2023.

“We also hope more industries and the public sector will come forward to support this programme as it is very attractive and flexible,” he said.

At the outset, Prof Dr Kamal, in his speech, expressed hope to work together with DOSM to undertake research for the betterment of the nation.

“Not only is this about the signing of the MoU but it’s also about sharing aspirations for the development of knowledge for human and talent development,” he added.

Meanwhile, Dr Mohd Uzir is confident that the strategic partnership will help Uniten deepen its expertise in statistical science and resource sharing for research and training.

“I always believe that if you do not do anything to be seen as competitive, you will be lagging behind. The numbers can be converted into data and put into the right content to become knowledge and assist in making wiser decisions,” added Dr Mohd Uzir.

He added that Uniten students and academic staff will be able to enhance their skills in data mining and increase analytical ability as well as acculturating evidence-based decision making.

Dr Mohd Uzir also told reporters that Malaysia will be hosting the World Statistics Congress at KLCC from Aug 18 next year.

“We expect 3,000 participants in the area of statistics science across the world for this congress.

“They will share their research and methodologies,” he said, adding that this would help higher learning institutions in their future research.