

PPKS/i-CATS to Showcase a Wide Range of Academic and Skills Programmes at BPIEF 2017



The Pusat Pembangunan Kemahiran Sarawak (PPKS) Group of Institutions will be participating in The Borneo Post International Education Fair (BPIEF) from 11 to 12 March 2017 at the VIVACITY Megamall in Kuching.

Open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on both days, the PPKS booth will showcase a wide range of academic and skills programmes offered by the PPKS Group of Institutions. In addition to programmes for fresh school leavers, working adults are invited to visit the PPKS booth, to explore the benefits of Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) and various pathways to earn industry-relevant qualifications.

Established in 1994, PPKS is a tripartite collaboration between the Industry, State and Federal Governments to produce a qualified and competent workforce through continuous learning and development. Various Malaysian Skills Certificate (Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia – SKM) and Malaysian Skills Diploma (Diploma Kemahiran Malaysia – DKM) programmes are offered by PPKS such as Mechatronics, Information Systems, Electrical Technician, Welding, Graphic Design, Automotive, Air Conditioning, Computer Systems, Industrial Electronics, Plantation Management, and Fashion and Tailoring. New programmes have been planned together with the Federation of Malaysian Skills Development Centres (FMSDC) such as Malaysian Meister Programme (MMP) in Mechatronics, Electrical and Electronics, and Automotive.

With regard to academic programmes, the International College of Advanced Technology Sarawak (*i-CATS*), a subsidiary company of PPKS, offers diploma-level programmes in Business Administration, Engineering, Hospitality, Information Technology, Plantation Management, and Tourism.

In 2016, *i-CATS* reached a significant milestone with the launching of two Bachelor's degree programmes offered in collaboration with Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur (IUUKL). The two programmes are the Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons.) in E-Commerce and Bachelor of Software Engineering (Hons.). Recently, two new diploma programmes were launched, namely the Diploma in Electrical Engineering (Power) and Diploma in Hotel Management. The Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Honours) in Manufacturing System in Collaboration with Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) will be launched in September 2017.

The proposed upgrading of *i-CATS* to a University College in the second half of 2017 would facilitate the adoption of a “Best of Both Worlds” approach to teaching and learning, i.e. shifting from a predominantly teaching institution to an institution with a harmonious blend of teaching and research initiatives. This would also pave the way for the development of various postgraduate programmes.

Enrolment to the various programmes is now ongoing for the March 2017 session. Members of the public including students, school leavers, parents and working adults are invited to visit the PPKS booth at BPIEF 2017.