Alternative way to an Engineering degree

By MARINA TAN

DESPITE the economic downturn, Malaysia still requires engineers. A study by the Institute of Engineering Malaysia concluded that the country would face a shortage of about 7,000 engineers by the year 2000.

While many students are still interested in engineering as a subject, full-time study overseas is not an option for many.

However, one way to get a good start in engineering is via Sunway College, which has formed a partnership with a consortium of universities (the Leicester Consortium) to offer a Bachelor of Engineering degree in a 1+2 twinning arrangement.

Students pursuing an Engineering degree via the Sunway-Leicester Consortium Twinning Programme have a choice of six British universities where they can complete the final two years of their degree.

They are: Aberdeen, Exeter, Lancaster, Loughborough and Warwick universities, and the University of Leicester, which heads the consortium.

Together, they offer a wide range of Engineering disciplines which includes Chemical, Civil and Structural, Electrical and Software, Electronic Engineering, Engineering and Management, Mechanical, Mechatronics and Telecommunications Engineering.

The courses offered by the consortium are Honours degree programmes, accredited by the UK Engineering Council, and are either three-year (Bachelor degree) or four-year (Master's degree) programmes.

Entry requirements are laid down by the University of Leicester and a range of qualifications are accepted including the Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM), A-Levels, Canadian Matriculation, Australian Matriculation or their equivalent.

The First Year Engineering degree course conducted at Sunway College offers two intakes per year – in January and September. The next intake is January 4, 1999.

Students who have successfully completed their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) and wish to pursue a career in engineering can opt for the one-year Foundation Engineering course, which guarantees entry into the Bachelor of Engineering course.

To ensure that academic standards are maintained, a member of Leicester University's Engineering Department is seconded to the college as Resident Director to manage the twinning programme.

The Sunway-Leicester Consortium twinning arrangement has successfully provided students with a solid foundation and pathway into the desired Engineering programmes.

Students Lai Nai One and Pang Hong Tong topped their respective orders of merit for the combined Sunway and Leicester pass list. Pang also received the R.A. Grierson prize.

Another student, Teoh Yee Ping, won the LUEA Project presentation prize while fellow coursemate Chan Huey Yee received the faculty prize nomination.

Final Year student Edwin Tan Chee Pin, who graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering degree (Electrical and Electronic), obtained First Class Honours, topped the order of merit and received the Electrical Engineering prize.

Among the 21 who graduated with First ClassHonours with Tan at Leicester University, were seven former Sunway-Leicester University Twinning Programme students.

For more information about these and other courses, call Sunway College at 03-7358622, fax 03-7358633 or visit their website at http://www.sunwayk.edu.my.