Pathway to success

MALAYSIA is experiencing a shortage of professionals and skilled workers especially in Science and Technology (S&T) or ICT-dependent industries, according to a recent study.

Aligning itself with international standards and inculcating market needs in ICT, Asia e University (AeU) has introduced a new Work-Based Learning (WBL) programme – Bachelor of Technology (Information Technology) with Honours or BTech (IT) (Hons).

In addition to classroom learning, the WBL programme allows students to earn additional credit through hours spent on a worksite.

The marks earned are recognised as part of the course assessment.

Basically, the WBL programme sets an understanding between the supervisor at the industries and the university on what is the required skill sets, experiential learning, assessment tools and knowledge content which are to be covered in the university curriculum.

In this manner, the university is able to close gaps between the skill sets needed by the industries against what is taught and offered in the university and students are able to apply the theories learnt at the workplace.

Assignments are flexible and designed based on the nature of

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the work.

The BTech (IT) is one of the latest programmes being offered by the School of Information and Communication Technology (SICT) at AeU to cater to market demands.

It allows potential students to further their studies by utilising their current job and working experiences through the WBL programme. Students will benefit from the collaboration between AeU and

major ICT players in various technologies. The WBL programme is ideal for working adults.

There are many graduates with diploma certificates who are already working in the industry and involved in various areas of IT.

The programme was formulated by incorporating the emerging fields in ICT, such as computer network security, web and mobile computing, service-oriented archi-

tecture and software development.

These are the elements essential to produce graduates capable of managing large scale communication network and security, build mobile applications for iPad and Android-based devices, cloud computing and other areas.

Students are required to produce three IT prototypes in the projects.

BTech graduates are in high demand in various sectors of the industry.

"Work-based learning is not a new concept in countries such as Australia, the United States and Britain.

"Many researches have been conducted to study its impact on graduate profiles, work efficiencies, experiential and learning curves, which has seen higher employee loyalty, staff retention, salary scale and productivity. BTech (IT) uses the WBL pedagogy for college or school-leavers who are already on the job with working experience related to Information and Communication Technology," said SICT dean Prof Dr Syed Malek Fakar Duani.

About AeU

AeU is a multinational university established under the auspices of the 32 Asia Cooperation Dialogue Countries (ACD). It is recognised as a provider of quality higher education to adults from all walks of life.

With a focus on personalised learning, AeU is leading the way in providing flexible, innovative and affordable quality education in Asia. Its unique selling point is it tailors higher education for adult learners.

Concurrently, AeU can also deliver similar programmes in other countries through collaboration with institutional partners by leveraging on technologies to enhance teaching and learning and also to facilitate academic and administrative support for quality assurance.

AeU offers a comprehensive range of academic and professional training programmes from graduate diploma, bachelor and master to doctoral levels.

Enrolment for the September semester is now open.

Candidates can apply for studies through a normal entry or via Open Entry System which takes into consideration the individual's working experience.

■ For more details, log on to *www.aeu.edu.my* or call 1300 300 238.