

Headline **A MUST for postgraduate studies**
 Date **15 Nov 2009**
 MediaTitle **New Sunday Times**
 Section **Supplement**
 Journalist **N/A**
 Frequency **Weekly**
 Circ / Read **153,409 / 295,000**

Language **English**
 Page No **26**
 Article Size **290 cm²**
 Color **Black/white**
 ADValue **4,015**
 PRValue **12,046**



A MUST for postgraduate studies

RAPIDLY positioning itself to be a global centre of academic excellence, Malaysia University of Science and Technology (MUST) plays vital and innovative role in implementing a wide and active research at the postgraduate level.

Started as the only private higher education institution that provides a diverse programmes for postgraduate student, MUST, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, offers students a diverse style of learning, education and culture, aiming and grooming students to fulfil industries needs and demands.

MUST boasts its diverse and exceptional research programme for postgraduate courses, based on its link established with major related industries. The university is also establishing major research

links with institutions in the country, such as Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM), Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) and various other established research institutes for its postgraduate research programmes.

"We work in close collaboration with the

industries; establishing agreements and build a link with research institutes. MUST works closely with the industries in terms of research, so both parties can able to see and monitor the research from ground," says Dr Ahmad Ibrahim, MUST's vice-president for industry affairs. "Our university is very business-oriented and market-driven," he adds.

According to Ahmad, MUST equip its postgraduate students to work with the industries to gain valued exposure. Both the industry and the students can then work in close collaboration in building up the various needs of the industry, in terms of commercialisation and expertise. Setting itself apart from other universities, MUST offers the flexibility to students who intend to conduct their research at their workplace laboratories. Graduate students will be

guided by a faculty member and professionals from partnering companies.

"We are pursuing to establish partnerships with various institutions and industries and offer students who are currently working in these institutes to pursue their postgraduate programmes with us and use their own labs to do their research," says Ahmad.

MUST offers eight MSc programmes modelled after

programmes at MIT — MSc in Biotechnology, MSc in Information Technology, MSc in Energy and Environment, MSc in Transportation and Logistics, MSc in Systems Engineering and Management, MSc in Construction Engineering and Management, MSc in Material Science and Engineering and MSc in Integrated Circuit Design. The three PhD programmes are PhD in Transportation and Logistics, PhD in

Biotechnology and PhD in Informatics.

All postgraduate 18-month MSc programmes are research-driven, structured to emulate MIT's style of learning, added with flexi-mode whereby students can choose fulltime classes, be on or off campus.

According to Ahmad, MUST is at early stage of setting up a Centre of Excellence, where research subjects are carried out with full industry participation.

"For now, we are looking positively at two industries — transport and logistics, energy and environment. We are moving very positively towards building an integrated collaboration with the industry using, the Centre of Excellence as a place where research ideas can be formulated and developed," Ahmad elaborates.

Being unique in its structure and objectives,

MUST has the potential to attract intellectually elite students within Malaysia and also from the South East Asian region. In addition, it is a private institution that is flexible, adaptable and responsive to industry and government needs.

To date, MUST has about 30 per cent foreign students and is looking at Asian, African and Middle East regions to further market their postgraduate programmes.

"Our plus point is our strong link with MIT that attracts foreign students to study with us," Ahmad points out.

"We had close to 200 graduate students and we are working on increasing that figure in near future," adding that MUST is currently planning to introduce research-only and coursework-only postgraduate programmes.



Dr Ahmad Ibrahim, MUST's vice-president for industry affairs.