

# Kolej Teknologi Darulnaim (KTD)



They say that knowledge is power, hence at Kolej Teknologi Darulnaim, based in Kota Bharu, they believe in giving further opportunities and a second chance for students to acquire knowledge and then some. Currently, KTD has aims to further expand its branch in addition to upgrading its current status from college to that of a university college within the next five years.

KTD is owned by EQ Resources Sdn. Bhd. and currently offers 14 programs involving two bachelor degree programs while the remaining 12 are diploma programs in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and Kolej Universiti Islam Selangor (KUIS).

According to KTD's Chairman, Dr. Abdullah Sudin Ab Rahman, "the cooperation with KUIS is more geared towards Islamic Studies whereas the UTM collaboration deals with management programs. At KTD itself, we offer programs such as multimedia and business management." Furthermore, Dr.

Abdullah Sudin informed that expansions beyond Kota Bharu are in the works with the Perlis KTD branch being a mere tip of the iceberg considering that a branch in Kuala Lumpur is soon to open.

"However, to achieve the status of a university college, KTD needs to comply with certain conditions as stipulated by the Government and the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), chief amongst it being the institution's financial condition and the internal courses offered by the KTD itself, without any collaboration with other universities or institutions. So far we have not had a problem and are expected to meet these requirements soon," he added.

The goal is certainly achievable, especially when considering the help provided by Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Berhad (MIDF), via the various financing facilities to companies such as EQ Resources. "We have had a good relationship and assistance from MIDF since 2012, when EQ Resources were looking into acquiring two building blocks comprising of 21 units of shop houses, for the purposes of becoming KTD's students' dormitory," mentions Dr. Abdullah before continuing, "when EQ Resources took over KTD from the state government, we did not only took over the educational programs on offer but also the debts – amounting to RM3million. It is here that our relationship with MIDF has grown over the years, as they have allowed us to provide the students with a more conducive living and studying environment as well as financial packages for future expansions."

With the assistance of MIDF, KTD – via EQ Resources – was able to purchase the two blocks and considering the old structures of the buildings, MIDF again came to the fore in providing monetary loans for repairs and redesigns. KTD's CEO vividly remembers the

ease of application with MIDF that resulted in a spanking new dormitory that is being used for its students as well as another application towards the purchase of a brand new bus for the students and staff's use.



With nearly 900 students under its enrolment as well as 40 international students coming from lands such as Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia to even Kenya, plans are underway for further KTD and MIDF partnerships towards opening a new branch in Kuala Lumpur. "At KTD, our motto is *"Mengaji biar pandai, perangai biar baik, hidup biar boleh tumpang"* and true to that, we very much emphasise on the correct Islamic values and high morals that are required of each individual. It is simply not enough to be a professional, but rather to be an ethical individual in the professional industry," Dr. Abdullah Sudin highlighted.

With nearly 130 employees and a 50:50 ratio between academic and non-academic staff, KTD strives to uphold to these principles and thus far, its record has largely been vindicative. "We do not put high requirements to those applying to study to KTD, because we wish to provide them a second chance. There are many of our students hailing from families with hardships, especially those who originate

from Kelantan and Sabah, but based on our experiences, when given the opportunity and the perfect upbringing, they are more than likely to succeed in education and in the workplace," Dr. Abdullah mentioned.

Indeed, with the litany of KTD alums and the positive feedback received from various industries, KTD is indeed successful in affording a second chance or an opportunity for those less fortunate, since after all, as per the words of Dr. Abdullah Sudin, "the Islamic upbringing at KTD is a necessary requirement of ours, for our aim is not only for their success in this world but also the afterlife. If they become accountants, let them be honest accountants; if they become engineers, let them be engineers who are able to lead prayers."