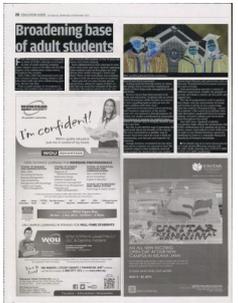


Headline	Broadening base of adult students		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	20 Nov 2013	Language	English
Circulation	298,821	Readership	1,839,000
Section	StarSpecial	Color	Full Color
Page No	E20	ArticleSize	305 cm ²
AdValue	RM 14,204	PR Value	RM 42,611



Broadening base of adult students

FEW educational stories are as inspiring as those of UUM's attempts to broaden its base of adult students studying higher degrees such as the MBA and the DBA degrees at its collaborative study centres throughout the country.

Since 1983, UUM has pioneered such centres in Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Malacca and Johor Baru with one of its collaborating partners, Rezzen Sdn Bhd.

From a small number of 14 students in Penang, the numbers have grown to a pass rate of nearly 800 students in the 10 years the classes have been running.

Such collaboration is now entering its next phase with more and more students applying. Some students from its first phase are completing their studies through a "teach out" phase. Those in the next phase are crowding out places with the new batches of students.

Soon, you will see new recruits attending previews, asking for copies of slides so that they can study the rationale of the programmes, the ways in which vivas are conducted and thesis examined.

Picking students from the crème la crème, the intakes have covered the employment bands of those from wide management levels and fields.

Rezzen classes have been known to be lively and interactive. Students take an active role in discussions while faculties are known to steer a guiding hand as they go over the entire syllabus with their class.

Experienced businessmen enrol and bring their business experience to the discussions. It is not unusual to find discussions of actual case studies contributed by classmates. Recruitment of students by students them-

selves is another way of helping students pay their own fees.

But this is yet another way of spreading the good word about the benefits of the classes. The close camaraderie is another way to ensure classroom esprit de corps is built up consistently, year by year and semester by semester.

Foreign lecturers recruited from the more than dozen countries are amazed at how the students adapt to their textbooks selected from around the world to their case studies chosen from libraries and universities such as Harvard, Thunderbird and European universities such as Esade.

Class presentations provide a variety of different experiences. Amidst the polyglot of accents and dialects, points are discussed and argued over.

The end of programmes result in graduation rituals, such as convocations. Its pomp and revelry is led by no less a personage than the country's Paramount King – colourful academic robes worn by academics who have themselves graduated from Ivy League schools, red brick colleges and universities from throughout the world.

Year after year, ritualised academic ceremonies make official the graduations and UUM's celebrations of its passing out of academic classes. Such indeed is how UUM earns its name as an eminent business university, glorifying its name as a reputable Malaysian repository of business knowledge.

■ For details, log on to www.rezzen.com.my or e-mail answers@rezzen.com.my. Call 03-2261 4248 (hunting line), 019-275 2488 or 019-273 2499 (marketing).

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MBA and DBA graduates at the convocation.