NUS signs MOU with German firm to train engineering students

Aqil Hanzah

Engineering students from the National University of Singapore (NUS) will get to pick up skills needed to work in complex processing plants in part of a co-operation with German company HIMA.

Under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) inked yesterday, the university’s department of chemical and biomolecular engineering will collaborate with HIMA, which counts ExxonMobil and Shell as clients.

Over a two-year period, they will work together to prepare students for the workforce.

Students will have internship opportunities and access to HIMA’s customer solutions centre at Alexandra Technopark, where they can observe actual operations in processing plants.

The centre also houses simulation systems that replicate the ones used in actual plants, with data from these plants used to give users a realistic experience.

Associate Professor Chai Kah Hin, HIMA’s vice-president in the Asia-Pacific, who is also located at Alexandra Technopark, said the initiative will help build a stronger pipeline of engineering talents.

“Functional safety ensures equipment used in complex systems run correctly and without hazard. Functional safety is a typical building block in an engineer’s education. It can be very technical and what they learn in the classrooms may be a bit dry, so hopefully the hands-on experience we provide can energise them,” said Mr Best.

“The knowledge and skills that our students gain at NUS, together with the hands-on opportunities offered by HIMA, will empower them with the confidence to tackle real-world problems,” he added.

Dr de la Motte said the collaboration would also give students opportunities to upskill themselves, especially in the light of technological advancements.

“We hope to give students a comprehensive experience before they embark on their first day working in an actual processing plant,” added Mr Best.

haq@sp.edu.sg