

Flexible, accessible and attainable



Professor Dr Siow Heng Loke (right) of AeU having a discussion with an industrial doctorate candidate.

ASIA e University (AeU) plays a significant role in supporting the government's initiatives by offering postgraduate programmes. This helps improve the accessibility to higher education and raises the professional qualifications of working Malaysians.

The AeU Industrial Doctorate (IndD) provides opportunities for students to bridge the gap between industry and university. The objective of the programme is to establish cooperation among the university, the industry and student, on specific research projects that are of high value to the industry and the participating parties. The IndD candidate is employed by the industry and at the same time he is enrolled at AeU.

This programme is distinctly different from the conventional doctorate degrees in terms of the mode of research, but preserves the mark of original or innovative research expected of a doctoral study. It is better suited to the needs of the industry, and providing a more vocationally oriented doctorate with industrial relevance. It is highly flexible and able to accommodate candidates from all levels of management.

It is a four-year, part-time postgraduate programme where candidates have the opportunity to spend most of their time carrying out research at their respective organisations or industries.

Participants in the programme will focus their research on industrial issues or problems and will be jointly supervised by experts from the university and industry. The IndD student will be employed by a partnering industry during the entire programme, whilst being registered as a doctoral student at AeU. Therefore one of the main advantages of this programme that will appeal to many candidates is that their

research will be conducted in the workplace. It means that candidates who wish to further their education will not be required to give up their existing jobs to do so, something that may have restricted many people from returning to education.

Students will have an industrial supervisor to provide guidance and an academic supervisor from the university to provide a long-term strategic direction towards outcomes that will be suitable for an award. They will be required to submit a dissertation by portfolio on their research and its outcome at the end of the programme.

"The IndD programme is based on the existing PhD model with a slant towards industry-based research. Candidates are primarily industry practitioners and their doctoral research will focus on industry-related issues. The research outcomes should be able to add value to existing industrial practices, tools or policies and contribute to overall development and growth of the organisation and industry," says Professor Dr Siow Heng Loke, dean at the AeU's School of Graduate Studies.

He adds that the programme is unique as it allows candidates to combine their strengths in academic research and industrial knowledge to come up with innovative solutions that are applicable for the industry. Candidates will conduct the research at their place of work. They will have at least two supervisors: one from AeU and the other, from the industry. On successful completion of their studies, just like the traditional approach, they will receive the Industrial Doctorate degree.

For more information
www.aeu.edu.my