



(From left) Roberts, Azman Hashim, Prof Noor Azlan and Prof Sahrin at the MoU signing ceremony at AmGeneral Insurance Bhd's new head office in Menara Shell, Kuala Lumpur.



Azman (third from right) surveying AmGeneral's new head office with Roberts (right).

# Insurer signs deal with varsity

Chance for students to take part in internship and enrichment programmes

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AMGENERAL Insurance Berhad and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to carry out an internship programme that will sponsor four Actuarial Science final-year students from UKM's School of Mathematical Sciences.

The MoU was signed by AmGeneral Insurance Bhd chief executive officer Derek Roberts and UKM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Noor Azlan Ghazali witnessed by AmBank Group chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim and UKM Faculty of Science and Technology dean Prof Dr Sahrin Ahmad.

Upon completing their final year, candidates will be given the opportunity to hone their skills in the Financial Sector Talent Enrichment Programme (FSTEP) with Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), before being offered full-time internship and employment with the insurance firm.

According to Prof Noor Azlan, UKM's excellence should be judged on the basis of stakeholders' perspectives.

"Firstly, there is the scholarly fraternity which emphasises on the quality of academic journals that the university publishes annually.

"Also, there is the Government, which wants us to contribute to the nation's development through our research.

"Finally, we have the industry members, who are interested in the quality of the graduates we produce," he said at the event. It was the third perspective that drove the

vice-chancellor to form a collaboration with AmGeneral in order to better acquaint students with the job market.

UKM, the first Malaysian university to offer a Bachelor's Degree in Actuarial Science, is also the sole local public university to be accredited by the Society of Actuaries by which exam papers for students of the programme would have to be approved by the professional body first.

Meanwhile, Azman who is a champion of the FSTEP programme, said the partnership marked a "first" for both groups.

One of the reasons behind the partnership was a desperate need for fresh graduates to be equipped with actuarial skills due to the regulatory changes in the financial services industry.

"We need to work closely with an established university such as UKM to nurture capable and talented actuarial talents, not only for the company but also for local industry."

The signing of the MoU was conducted in conjunction with the launch of AmGeneral's new head office at Menara Shell, Kuala Lumpur.

Roberts welcomed employees to the new office, saying the new office offered greater convenience to customers by virtue of its proximity to KL Sentral.

"Relocating our head office to a centralised area in Kuala Lumpur will provide easy accessibility to our employees, customers and business partners.

"More importantly, our employees will benefit from the open concept workplace," said Roberts.

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