IET On Campus: Site visits

IET On Campus Brunei regularly arranges site visits, giving students a chance to visit real workplaces and get a better understanding of what life is like as a working engineer.

How did the event idea come about?

These events first began due to interest from local IET student members. They let the community know that they wanted to find out more about specific industries and how they operate, and so the community’s committee began looking into organising these visits.

How did the On Campus student community approach these events?

“To begin, we approached several companies, making contact and asking whether they’d be willing to host us for a technical visit,” says Jevons Quiambao Penallor, chairperson of IET-ITB On Campus community. “We would then complete the necessary paperwork and procedures,” he explains.

How did they develop and promote the events?

Once the date and schedule is confirmed with the host company, the committee then goes back to the interested members and lets them know that the trip is going ahead. A lot of the promotion is through word of mouth, but the community also uses WhatsApp chat groups to spread the news throughout campuses.

What learnings did they take from the events?

Everyone who attends site visits get to learn lots about engineering workplace and what life is really like as a professional engineer. They are a great way to get a better understanding of real-world engineering.

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What skills have they gained from this activity that they could add to their CVs?

Those involved in organising the site visits gain many skills, including event management and crowd control. They also gain networking experience with professional engineers.

“From arranging site visits the student community has been able to gain a lot of experience in areas such as paperwork, soft skills such as communication, all in addition to networking opportunities,” enthuses Jevons. “It’s a really good way to improve the skills we lack, and gain experience in areas that aren’t covered by our lecturers.”

What feedback did they get from students who participated?

“We get a lot of positive feedback from these events,” Jevons notes. “The attendees tell us that they were able to get an idea of what an actual workplace environment is like. In addition, it helps them get an idea of the possible work they could go on to do in the future,” he adds.

How has this activity helped the On Campus student community?

Jevons goes on to note that site visits are a great way to enthuse the student community, bringing in new members and keeping existing members truly engaged.

“Student communities and IET On Campus groups always face the difficulty of keeping and maintaining members’ interest in the IET, and so we need to make the effort to show them what the IET can offer - both in the short and long term.

“We start by concentrating on activities such as site visits to spark that interest. It is challenging, but I find the role of chairperson interesting and it is great to be part of a committee that helps ignite a spark in new members and existing members alike.”

Will they run these events again?

Site visits are a regular part of the On Campus community’s event calendar, and they aim to arrange a variety of visits every academic year.

We’d love to hear what your group is up to – share your photos and videos to:

Facebook /IETMoreEnergy
Twitter @IETEarlyCareer
#IETOnCampus

To find out more about IET On Campus including event cases studies:

E: oncampus@theiet.org
www.theiet.org/oncampus

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