

Building better brains

University College of Engineering and Technology Malaysia (KUKTEM) will blend the best of theoretical and practical academic training to produce graduates who can contribute to Malaysia's industrial and technological development. **SHAHRUM SAYUTHI** writes.

THE University College of Engineering and Technology Malaysia (KUKTEM) will transform the royal town of Pekan, once the first phase of its main campus is completed in 2008.

Ground work for that phase of the project, which covers 257ha, has been completed and structural construction just began.

Once completed, it will house the university's Electrical and Electronic Engineering Faculty and Mechanical Engineering Faculty.

Hostels under construction in the first phase of the project can accommodate 2,000 students.

The three-phase development of KUKTEM's campus is located at Desa Samudera, Kuala Pahang, 7km from Pekan.

The area is surrounded by villages and beaches.

The development of the



MORTAZA

POTENTIAL TO CHANGE SOCIAL LANDSCAPE: Kukum students conducting experiments in a lab.

project will cover 737ha and is expected to be completed by 2015.

The university aims to house 13 faculties there with 50 mechanical laboratories.

The completed campus can accommodate more than 20,000 students.

The facilities in the cam-



pus' Academic Complex will be one of the most comprehensive in the country for the study of mechanical, automotive, electric and computer engineering.

They were designed to blend the best of theoretical and practical academic training to produce gradu-

ates who can contribute to Malaysia's industrial and technological development.

Deputy rector Prof Dr Mortaza Mohamed said other than the physical impact of the campus on the royal town, what would be more important was its potential to change the social land-

scape of the place.

"First of all, we have to thank the Sultan of Pahang for pushing the construction of our campus.

"His majesty has shown great concern for the educational development of the people."

Mortaza said the university was also indebted to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, the Pekan Member of Parliament.

KUKTEM is located at its temporary campus in Gambang with 3,000 students.

The university, which opened three years ago with 300 students, now consists of six faculties: mechanical and manufacturing engineering; chemical and natural resources engineering; electrical and electronic engineering; civil and environmental engineering; computer system and software engineering; modern languages and human sciences.