

Banking on continuous professional development

THE Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers (AICB), with over 30,000 members, is the sole professional body for the banking industry in Malaysia. The institute recently refreshed their logo and corporate identity to encapsulate the spirit of banking professionalism, an identity that communicates their core values of accountability, integrity, competence and professionalism. For bankers, AICB is the symbol of a lifelong, personal commitment to professional excellence and ethical professionalism that must be maintained through one's career.

As the banking industry undergoes rapid changes, AICB plays a significant role in raising the bar on competence and professionalism and supports its members' growth through professional qualifications, continuous professional development, thought leadership and networking initiatives. The institute's progressive professional qualifications have also been developed with industry input to meet industry needs and allow bankers to grow professionally across various banking specialisations, with the aim of creating a sustainable and competent pipeline of banking talent with the right skills, mindsets and values.

The Chartered Banker – a prestigious professional designation and the gold

standard for professionals in the banking sector – is the institute's flagship qualification, favoured by accomplished banking professionals and industry leaders globally. Jointly awarded by AICB and the Chartered Banker Institute (CBI) in the United Kingdom – the only body in the world able to confer this award – the Chartered Banker qualification aims to provide extensive, detailed and critical knowledge of the banking sector, covering modules on banking operations, ethics, risk management, credit and lending, international banking and many others.

All Chartered Bankers are required to demonstrate technical competence, ethical professionalism and responsibility and accountability for their actions, alongside an unfailing commitment to act in the best interests of customers and clients. AICB is proud to be the only institute in South-East Asia approved by the CBI to award the Chartered Banker status to qualified members.

AICB chief executive Prasad Padmanaban affirms the institute's advocacy for banking practices and roles infused with ethics and integrity:

"Our institute upholds the integrity of the banking profession as we are committed to elevating professional banking standards and championing the professional values set

out in AICB's Code of Professional Conduct. Industry needs are growing at a fast pace and as we face seismic cultural and technological changes in an ever-evolving banking landscape, we can ensure that the cultivation and instillation of exemplary competence and professionalism through our membership and qualifications remain a constant, to assist bankers in adapting to the finance of the future," he says.

"Bankers are in the business of trust, therefore it is important to take pride in our profession, as with other well-respected careers such as doctors and lawyers. Although we do not save lives, people's livelihoods and potentially, a nation's financial well-being, rest in the palms of our hands. Prosperous nations thrive because high standards of practice and respectable ethical principles are employed to secure financial stability and serve the greater good of all. It is imperative that we continue to advocate an exemplary level of ethics and professionalism within Malaysia's banking workforce and encourage those who share this vision to be our members."

AICB congratulates its members who have successfully completed their professional banking qualifications and the esteemed recipients of the prestigious Chartered Banker status at the Institute's 3rd Chartered Banker Conferment and 22nd graduation ceremony, which

was held on July 13 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

The AICB is the sole professional body for the banking industry in Malaysia governed by a council comprising representatives from Bank Negara Malaysia, the Association of Banks in Malaysia and Malaysian Investment Banking Association. It aims to elevate the professional and ethical standards of banking practitioners and create a banking workforce that subscribes to high standards of professional conduct, knowledge and competence.

■ For more information, visit www.aicb.org.my



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Build from square one

EVEN with such a high demand for young engineers, more and more of them are dropping out of the profession and moving on to non-engineering jobs after being discouraged from being unable to get past employment interviews.

In *Disheartened engineers leaving the field* published last year, Electrical & Electronics Productivity Nexus chairman Datuk Seri Wong Siew Hai commented, "The quality of these graduates is not the problem. They just lack some trainable things companies were looking for."

As great as it sounds to pursue a postgraduate degree, it is important to consider factors that would support your decision. When choosing a programme, take into consideration what you want to study and ensure the courses offered are in line with your goals. Given that postgraduate courses are not cheap, choosing the right course is important.

You will spend a considerable amount of time in this degree, so choose a field and sub-specialty you're genuinely interested in. You should also look into your job prospects and fields that need your brand of postgraduate expertise.

For example, in the field of civil engineering, a specialisation in transportation engineering could lead to solutions to overcrowding in public

transportation. Similarly, a specialty in geotechnical engineering could help ensure the stability of the foundation on which a project is constructed, as well as expected foundation-related pitfalls the project could face.

Postgraduate courses are not cheap and if your budget is strained, one way of easing your burden would be through student loans or scholarships such as Yayasan UTP Prestigious Scholarship and Heriot-Watt Petroleum Engineering Scholarship.

Most of these scholarships require you to maintain good grades, and some require that you undergo an interview or two to assess your eligibility. Certain scholarships may also require you to undergo bonded employment with the awarding organisation for several years.

The demand for qualified engineers in Malaysia is increasing. In order to get ahead in the field, engineers ought to look into obtaining postgraduate qualifications. Besides gaining knowledge, an important benefit of postgraduate study is the development of your personal growth.

Whatever you choose to study, you will gain a wide range of transferable skills that every employer will value, so if you think it will help your career progression and worth as an engineer, postgraduate study could be the path for you.

