

MASTERING DIGITAL LITERACY

RAPID technological advancements powering today's Industry 4.0 demand higher expectations for industry professionals to master digital literacy.

In the built environment industry, for example, leading construction firms now require areas such as cost planning, procurement and contract administration to be integrated into a single digital platform that offers real-time cost governance and total control over every budget, timeline and material flow.

At Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT), students are exposed to the latest technologies and trends in built environment, as these efforts include its strategic collaborations with industry leaders.

TAR UMT's collaborations with IME Group and Global PCK Solutions, for instance, provide students with access to cutting-edge tools such as Archicad for Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Buildspace which enables the production of detailed cost breakdowns, management of tendering and real-time project tracking.

Faculty of Built Environment associate dean Wong Foo Yeu highlighted how the collaborations enhance learning.

“It creates a mental shift in our students from being mere technicians to becoming digital governors of a construction project.

“Using these tools, students can generate project plans faster. This makes the teaching of complex subjects far more effective, especially in areas such as building modelling, cost control and risk management, as they can immediately see their models and plans take shape on screen.”

He added that the tools provide experiential learning through immediate consequences. “For instance, if a quantity surveying student simulates a two-week material delay on a structural component, the app instantly recalculates the entire schedule, adjusts the cash flow forecast, and highlights the penalties and acceleration costs involved. “It delivers a level of high-stakes, practical decision-making no theoretical case study could replicate, which is a valuable exposure for students,” Wong noted.

Through lifelong bonds with their alma mater, many TAR UMT alumni have established important and strategic collaborations with the university, providing the necessary exposure and latest industry trends to current students.

Chew Fu Keong is a shining example, having graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Quantity Surveying and currently serving as the chief executive officer of Global PCK Solutions.

“The university gave me the blueprint to enter the industry, while technology has since changed the game. I want to help bridge that gap for the next generation,” he said.