

Students are PSDC's pride and joy

■ By Timothy Leonard

THE Pahang Skills Development Centre (PSDC) can take pride in training 6,846 workers in industrial backgrounds since opening its doors in 1996.

Located at the Semambu Industrial Zone near Kuantan, PSDC offers certificate and diploma courses, as well as National Vocational Skills Certification and Malaysian Skills Certification courses for working adults as well as school leavers.

Four diploma courses are offered in collaboration with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and Majlis Latihan Vokasional Kebangsaan (MLVK).

The courses are Diploma in Computer Science, Diploma in Electronic Engineering (Industrial), Diploma in Electrical Engineering (Energy) and Diploma in Computer Systems.

The courses runs from two-and-a-half years to three

years.

The Malaysian Skills Certification courses offered at the PSDC are for industrial instrumentation and control, industrial electronics, computer technicians, electricians as well as industrial mechatronic manufacturing courses, which range from 15 to 18 months.

PSDC executive director Syed Ahmad Fuad Syed Taha said the centre was responsible for educating and grooming skilled workers for industrial sectors.

He said the PSDC also accepted students with SPM and SPVM qualification for its diploma courses.

Two intakes are held every year in June/July and December.

"The PSDC was also appointed by the Women's Ministry to train women in Information and Communications Technology courses and to help women to be computer literate," Syed Ahmad said.

"The courses at the PSDC are open to working women, housewives, single mothers, unem-

ployed women and women entrepreneurs.

"To date, we have trained 2,255 women," he said.

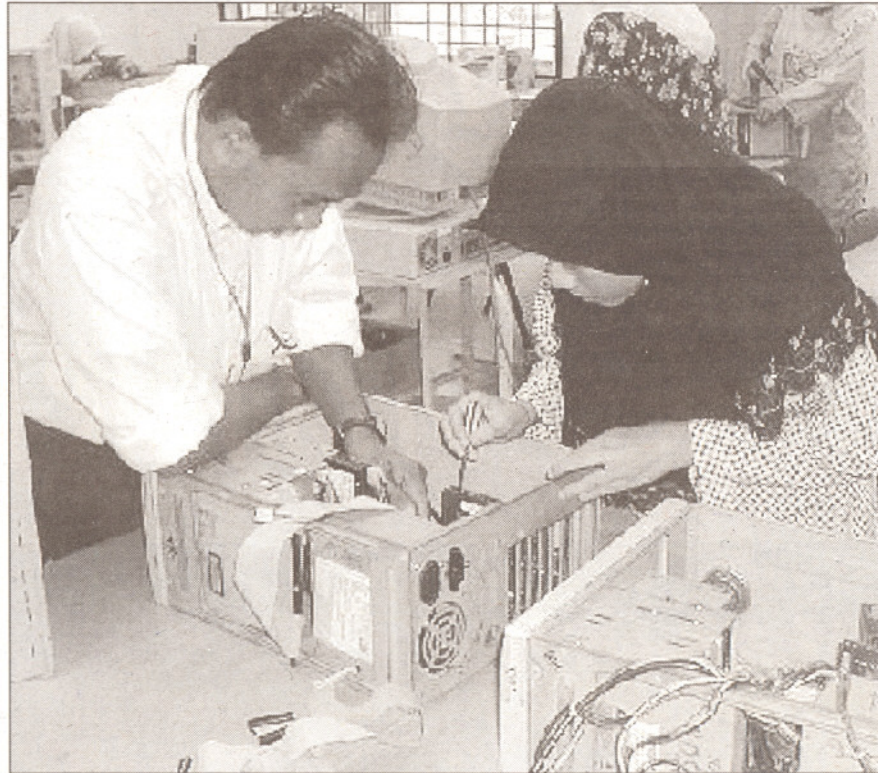
He said the PSDC also trained graduates under its Graduate Training Scheme to equip them with extra skills, via courses such as the Process Instrumentation and Control Technology, Automotive Manufacturing (Plant), Operation and Maintenance, and Process Plant's Safety and Health.

The courses, conducted at PSDC or the employer's premises, run from eight to 11 months.

The students' fees are borne by the Government. The courses are open to diploma and degree holders in technical fields, as well as jobless graduates.

The PSDC has 709 students, 749 industrial trainees, 54 trainers and lecturers, and 40 staff to operate and maintain its campus.

It has a technical laboratory, a computer laboratory, a library and a hostel, including transportation facilities.



SKILFUL MOVE: PSDC students doing a project in a lab in Semambu, Kuantan.