

UCTS gets highest rating in Green Building Index by andy chua



SIBU: University College of Technology Sarawak (UCTS) has become the first university in the world to be platinum-rated for the Green Building Index (GBI) award.

Its vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Abdul Hakim Juri said the university which started operations on April 1, 2013, had scored 87 points, one more than the minimum 86 which is required for the award.

“UCTS is the first university in the world to receive the highest rating for a green building,” he said, adding that it would be presented with the award next month.

The GBI rating system is regulated by the GBI Accreditation Panel which is an independent committee consisting of PAM (Malaysian Architect Organisation) and Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysian professionals.

In revealing this during a visit by state Welfare, Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Fatimah Abdullah yesterday, Dr Abdul Hakim said UCTS fulfilled a lot of conditions, mainly on energy conservation, that needed to be met to achieve the rating.

Hence, he said, green technologies had been incorporated into the buildings to preserve energy and the environment.

“We are now using 50% less energy than any normal building as our buildings have double glazing glass to conserve energy.

“Our buildings are also fitted with Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) to reduce energy consumption. With motion sensors, lights would automatically switch on and off when a person walks under it,” he said.

The university is also harvesting rain water and storing them in the pond in front of the university. The water collected will be recycled for air conditioning and flushing of toilets while the water from the toilets will again be recycled for gardening use.

UCTS is built on a 44.08ha of land. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak officiated the ground breaking ceremony on Sept 16, 2012.

Currently, UCTS has a total of 685 students and will be able to accommodate up to 5,000 students when the campus is fully completed in the next two to three years.