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## Vale Enlists 83 Perak Apprentices

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After sending 61 local youths for apprentice training at Brazil and Oman last year, Vale has enlisted 83 others for a similar programme. Enlistment for the second set of trainees was made through interviews done at Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysia (UniKL), and Institute of Marine Engineering Technology (MIMET) in Lumut. A welcome and farewell ceremony was held recently for both graduating apprentices and for the new batch leaving soon for the Vale Junior Apprenticeship Programme which is specially focused on fishermen's children from Manjung Selatan and Pulau Pangkor. "Since stepping into Lumut in 2011, it has always been our desire to be long-term partners for both Perak and its community. We believe the Apprenticeship Programme and Junior Apprenticeship Programme are essential investments into the development of local talents and will create mutual benefits for Vale, the community and the state," said Marcelo Figueiredo, Vale Project Portfolio Director during his speech at the ceremony. He expressed his appreciation towards the partnership which Vale shares for this purpose with both UniKL and MIMET. The institutions provide strong guidance and excellent facilities to train the apprentices, he explained. Also speaking at the graduation ceremony was Vale Pre-Operations General Manager André Kopperschmidt who highlighted that throughout the recruitment process, Vale had always given priority to Malaysians. "Vale believes in local growth and has an excellent track record of boosting local talents in the communities that they are a part of," he said. Kopperschmidt also added that the programme offers a great opportunity for young apprentices to build their career in a dynamic and growing company. The apprentices gain intimate knowledge of the work environment with hands-on job training; opportunities to apply their freshly-acquired skills; gain access to career mentors and a career path advantage as well as increased confidence when working in future. Three roadshows were organised in the community to recruit potential candidates for the Junior Apprentices intake before Vale selected 55 youths for the 12-month long training. During their training period at UniKL MIMET, apprentices are taught both theory and acquire hands on time surrounding machine maintenance before being clustered according to work experience groups of Mechanical, Operational and Electrical focus. "My friends from the apprenticeship programme are very grateful and proud to be chosen to be a part of the Vale workforce. We are lucky to not only be able to build a future with Vale, but also the opportunity to be part of Vale's future plans," said Shukur Salleh Bahaum, a Vale Junior Apprentice. High performers will head to Brazil or Oman for their on-the-job training and prior to their departure will be given enhanced preparation by trainers from Vale's Pre-Ops team. This training further guides them to the specific work environment's mechanical, electrical and cultural requirements including health and safety exercise. "Thank you Vale and UniKL for the tailor-made lessons, advice and experiences shared. We appreciate the genuine handshakes and sincere smiles throughout," said A. Wilbert Jacquim who will be heading to Brazil soon. The high-performing candidates from the international on-the-job experience will then be offered positions as permanent employee of Vale in 2014 – becoming an important part of the iron ore distribution centre's workforce in Teluk Rubiah. Fishermen's children aged between 18 to 25 years old who have completed SPM or SKM and are interested in working with Vale are all eligible to apply for the Vale Junior Apprenticeship Programme. Present in 37 countries, Vale is one of the world's largest mining companies and is the largest producer of iron ore and pellets, key raw materials for the steel industry as well as nickel which are used to produce stainless steel, batteries, special alloys, chemicals and other products. The company also produces copper, manganese, ferroalloys and coal, among other raw materials important to the global industrial sector and present in people's daily lives.