

# Secretarial students venture into long-term business

BRUNEI-MUARA

BUSINESS School students taking secretarial studies are venturing into entrepreneurship for the first time, with plans and ideas to start a long-term business as part of their business project, an assessment unit in their final year under the Brunei Darussalam Technical and Vocational Education Council (BDTVEC) National Diploma programme.

Led by student Hjh Aini Hj Mahrop, the group consisting of 10 members were formed after a decision was made to venture into starting up a long-term business, and not just part of their assessment.

The group's name is called Saudah and their nature of business is primarily on the selling of health products from Bio Greeno Malaysia.

The school's Business Project is a crucial component in the second year of the BDTVEC National Diploma Business and Finance course, where students put theory into practice through hands-on experience in running a business for eight months.

Students taking secretarial studies in the school are no exception, but throughout the years they have only played a small role in the Business Project activities, such as setting up school functions and conducting social responsibilities.

"We want to prove that secretarial students are also



**Health talk:** Dr Zulkifli Ahamad, a health consultant from Bio Greeno Sdn Bhd in Malaysia, giving a health awareness talk to Business School students at the school's lecture theatre. *Picture: BT/Al-Haadi Abu Bakar*

capable of starting and running a business, even though business and finance studies as well as enterprise planning are not part of our syllabus in the secretarial course," said Mohd Arifin Hj Metussin, the procurement cum marketing officer of the group.

The 24-year-old student went on to say that it was only this year that the current batch decided to step out of the comfort zone. As a result, it took eight tutors from the school to

assist them to catch up with the rest of the Business and Finance students to conduct their Business Project activities for this year.

Iswandi Hj Hamdi, a lecturer who supervises the group, said: "Since these secretarial students have not been exposed to business studies for the past two years, we took the initiative to assist them in whatever we can to help them achieve their goals to start and operate a business."

"The business project is a challenge to us because we are secretarial students with no background in business," said Hjh Aini, general manager of Saudah.

"But we believe that with our strong desire and the additional support from our tutors, we can make this business work, and it's something we want to do in the long-run, after the end of our course next year," she added.

Yesterday, the group

organised a product awareness and health seminar which was open to the public. The seminar was to give the group a head start in promoting their business to the public.

Held at the school's lecture theatre, the health seminar was conducted by Dr Zulkifli Ahamad, a Malaysian health consultant from Bio Greeno Sdn Bhd.

Dr Zulkifli introduced a medical supplement called Greeno Golden Clam, a medical breakthrough supplement that uses natural freshwater clams from the valleys of Taiwan that has been clinically proven to be able to protect and revitalise the liver as well as effectively preventing and improving heart, kidney and pancreas diseases.

Saudah collaborated with a local company that distributes the product, Modal Insan Enterprise, to help promote Bio Greeno products as the main product that the group will be selling throughout their eight-month Business Project activities, which will commence in August.

"We shift our focus primarily on health products as health has been a concern in today's fast-paced and technologically-driven lives. And with the recent outbreak of Influenza A in the country, it is best to boost our immune system with the aid of a healthy and effective supplement in order to avoid getting infected," said Mohd Arifin. (ADI) **The Brunei Times**