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Experiential Learning Opportunities for Forensic Engineering Students

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Beginning with the March 2022 semester, students of the Forensic Engineering course were given the opportunity to have experiential learning while working on their Mega Project. This Mega Project is intended to measure the competency of the students to carry out problem-based learning (PBL) activities by performing a complete check of defects for buildings in UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang (UiTM CPP), also known as a dilapidation survey. Since the opening of the campus UiTM CPP in 2003, major buildings on the campus are still in their original conditions, but a few areas of the buildings have visible deterioration and require maintenance. So, as future forensic engineers, students were exposed to the real working environment to provide a record of the existing structures, including buildings, infrastructure, roads, pathways, and any facility structures that exist on the project site. All prominent defects in the form of cracks, settlement, water seepage, corrosion of reinforcement, subsidence, and other building defects will be documented in photographs together with notes by referring to the Garis Panduan Pemeriksaan Bangunan Sedia Ada by the Public Work Department (PWD).



Sample of cracks on the building apron at Kolej Kristal, UiTM CPP.



Mega Project presentation with the BPF engineer, Mohd Saiful Nizam Mohammad Ali.



The group of students and BPF representatives.

Experiential learning offers an excellent strategy for achieving the objective of university education. In experiential learning, students will be exposed to the real working environment, develop their critical thinking skills, and boost their self-confidence. Working in a group of 6 to 8 members, they have to liaise with *Bahagian Pengurusan Fasilitas* (BPF) at UiTM CPP as their client or building owner from the beginning of the project until the presentation of the findings reports.