

Four awarded new scholarship dedicated to energy industry

By CAROLYN KHEW

THE first government-industry scholarship dedicated to the power sector has been awarded to four tertiary students.

Mr S. Iswaran, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, gave out the scholarship awards yesterday at the In Dialogue With Youth forum, which was part of the Singapore International Energy Week and attended by more than 300 students.

The Energy-Industry Scholarship was launched in January to help nurture talent for the sector, which was reported last year to have workers with a median age of 48. The industry would need 2,400 more technical professionals in the next decade, the Energy Market Authority (EMA) had said.

Open to Singaporeans and permanent residents, the scholarship covers hostel and tuition fees, and provides a monthly allowance.

This year's recipients will join Singapore LNG Corporation, Singapore Power and YTL PowerSeraya once they graduate.

To keep the energy sector competitive, there must be good people joining the sector at different

levels, said Mr Iswaran, who is also Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry.

Singapore Polytechnic student Noor Nashriyah Jalil, 19, is one of the scholarship winners and is studying for a diploma in electrical and electronic engineering.

"Engineering has always been a 'man's field'. I hope to prove to myself and society that woman can do the job just as well, if not better," she said.

The other recipients are National University of Singapore undergraduate Tay Wei Jia, 23, Institute of Technical Education College West student Muhammad Rafiuddin Samsudien, 17, and Singapore Polytechnic student Teo Wen Xuan, 18.

The next scholarship application period starts in December.

Seven companies in the sector, including Sembcorp Industries and Keppel Infrastructure Holdings, will come on board.

Yesterday, Singapore Power and EMA also unveiled initiatives, including a mobile exhibition and a short film contest, to reach out to 16,000 primary and secondary school students from next year.

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Energy-Industry Scholarship recipients (from left) Tay Wei Jia, Teo Wen Xuan, Noor Nashriyah Jalil and Muhammad Rafiuddin Samsudien. The scholarship, which is open to Singaporeans and permanent residents, was launched in January to help nurture talent for the sector. ST PHOTO: DESMOND LIM