The Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) was established with the consent of His Majesty Sultan Yang Di Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam in May 2014. It assumed the functions previously fulfilled by the former Department of Technical Education under the Ministry of Education. IBTE is one of the key providers of technical education and training including full-time, apprenticeships, part-time and continuing education and training (CET) with a mission to produce highly skilled and employable graduates that meet stakeholders’ expectation through a holistic learning environment. IBTE is thus created to equip students with technical knowledge and skills relevant to the industry to foster work readiness, and at the same time it also provides opportunity for students to progress to higher level certifications.

With two campuses located strategically around the country, IBTE Central in the Brunei-Muara district and IBTE Satellite in the Belait district and nine schools namely; School of Aviation, School of Hospitality and Tourism, School of Information and Communication Technology, School of Building Technology Services, School of Energy and Engineering Central, School of Energy and Engineering Satellite, School of Business, School of Agro-Technology and Applied Sciences and Brunei Maritime Academy (BMA), IBTE offers qualifications including Higher National Technical Education Certificate (HNTec), National Technical Education Certificate (NTec) and Diploma Level 5 (for programmes under BMA). Based on the Brunei Darussalam Qualification Framework (BDQF) the HNTec qualification is comparable to the Diploma qualification pegged at Level 4, NTec are pegged at Level 3 and qualifications pegged at Level 5.

The entry requirements for National Technical Education Certificate (NTec) Programmes is the completion of Year 10/11, 3 “O” levels for Higher National Technical Education Certificate (HNTec) programmes and 5 “O” levels for BMA Diploma Level 5 students who complete the course may proceed to the next level of certification (based on GPA) or start a career in the industry. Since 2014, IBTE has restructured its curriculum into courses that
are demand-driven and competency-based; in which it puts more focus onto the development of the students’ competency through hands-on activity in their classes. By having proper training, the students have the choice for self-employment thus, reducing pressure on the government to provide jobs for them.

IBTE encompasses a diverse and wide range of learning experiences from business and finance, nursing, automotive technology, tourism, culinary arts, construction, agrotechnology, electronics, engineering, and veterinary science. For this coming July 2018 academic session, a total of 56 programmes including 32 programmes under Industry Competency Framework (ICF) will be offered. Being a student who chooses to take the technical education pathway, which will ultimately lead to the attainment of skills, is not an easy choice. The programmes offered are career-oriented courses, providing students with the opportunity to gain work experience through authentic learning, on-the-job training, and industry-certification opportunities.

With the upcoming Higher Education Expo which will be held on 10 and 11 February 2018 at BRIDEX and prospective students and parents eager to know more about IBTE programmes, here are up-close and personal accounts of several students from various disciplines on what the programmes have in store for them.

A graduate who had dreams about being an engineer finally came true after he got a job offer after his graduation, Muhammad Fa’iz bin Haji Sufri has been studying in IBTE for 4 years. He started from Skills Certificate 2 (SC2) and Skills Certificate 3 (SC3) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, then he progressed and spent 2 years taking Higher National Education Certificate in Electrical Engineering. According to Muhammad Fa’iz the course was indeed challenging but it was useful for his line of work especially in the oil and gas industry. “I chose this course because I wanted to be an engineer and it was great to know that IBTE offers such programmes. During my study at IBTE, it was a total different experience and the most exciting part is the hands on practical classes. I learned many new things such as to do wiring installations, troubleshooting electrical circuits and many more. I enjoyed my industrial based training with 3 companies, namely; Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn. Bhd, Ikmal Sdn. Bhd and BATAMAS Sdn. Bhd.” Said Muhammad Fa’iz. Now, Muhammad Fa’iz works as an Electrical Engineer for China Chemical Engineer Second Construction Cooperation. He is grateful that all the knowledge and skills that he had learned and gained from IBTE is useful for his current job. “It is a wise choice to choose IBTE because it would give you a chance to learn and practice working on site making you job ready” said Muhammad Fa’iz.

Mohd Adli Shahidul Azim bin Haji Gahni, a recent graduate and one of the awardees of
the best students in the IBTE’s 25th Convocation Ceremony 2017 was determine that IBTE could give him a better pathway and career for his future. He is now an Automotive Technician, under the Department of Land Engineering, Ministry of Defense. “Everything that I have learnt from IBTE was relevant and the course actually prepared me for a real work setting. For future applicants, I would like to say, make sure you think about your future and choose the course that you have interest in, work hard and don’t give up.” Said Mohd Adli.

“It was a journey where I was committed to learning and ensuring better time management between studying and spending time with my family. During the course, I was taught by experienced instructors where we understood more of the topics and applied the theory during practicals.” Said Rabi’atul Bazilah binti Ramli, a graduate from IBTE School of Agro-Technology and Applied Sciences. She mentions that it was extremely fulfilling that she could immediately apply the knowledge at work. Currently Rabi’atul is working as a trainee medicine inspector working at the Pharmacy Dispensary at the Department of Pharmaceutical Service. Rabi’atul shares her experience, “I helped to supply medication effectively to the patients, guide them on the proper use of medication to prevent drug wastage and it also helped me make better decisions if I had encountered a problem during patient counseling and preparation of the medicines.” Rabi’atul received a best student award during her convocation last year, and when applicants asked for advice for future IBTE, “If you decide to join IBTE, then you are making the right decision. If you had the opportunity to join IBTE, make sure you do your best, study well, and always seek for instructors’ advice and help. Other than that, time management is important when studying. I wish everyone all the best and may your journey with IBTE brings you success and a bigger and brighter future.”