The "Trainee Engineer" event was divided into five sections: Agroforestry Engineering, Information and Communications Technologies, Industrial Engineering, Civil Engineering, Architecture and Building Technology, Madrid School of Fashion Design.

Each section organized a wide range of games and workshops, and students were able to pick the options that tied in with their prospective higher education choices.

At this fair, I got the chance to handle a bird of prey. It was great.

And, last but not least, we would not like to forget the 300 UPM student volunteers who provided support and advice and who, working alongside UPM professors, researchers and non-academic staff, contributed to making the 2nd Engineering and Architecture Fair a huge success.

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The 2nd UPM Engineering and Architecture Fair, with the “Trainee Engineer” slogan, was held from 22 to 26 September 2015. The event, hosted by the School of Agricultural, Food and Biosystems Engineering, received more than 3200 visits from students of 42 schools in Madrid who toured 53 marquees set up around the 15,000 square-metre exhibition ground.

Accompanied by the President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, high-ranking military officers and distinguished academics, the rector of the UPM opened the event.

The aim of the UPM’s 2nd Engineering and Architecture Fair is therefore to get young Spaniards to take an interest in engineering, science and technology.

In a world whose development is increasingly dependent on technology, the number of university students choosing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) degrees is declining.

“This skills shortage is a matter of concern for Spanish society as a whole”, says the UPM’s rector.

There is also a downward trend in the number of STEM students in the rest of Europe and the United States.

Technology sector companies joined forces with the UPM to provide the university with organizational support for the “Trainee Engineer” Fair, showcasing the professional opportunities that the sector has to offer young people and contributing to the sound development and success of the event. Apart from the Ministry of Defence, the other participant organizations were Fundación Universidad Empresa, Gas Natural Fenosa, ABB Group, IBM, Fundación Talgo, Caja de Ingenieros, Fundación Juan-Miguel Villa Mir, BQ, BBVA, European Space Agency, Fundación Repsol, Deloitte and Casesa. The UPM also received backing from the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT-MINECO) through its Scientific Culture Unit.

Over 70 hands-on activities related to UPM degree programmes were scheduled as part of the 2nd UPM Engineering and Architecture Fair.

Now I know what degree course to take.

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