Job-qualification mismatch causes unemployment, says Naroden

KUCHING: Unemployment among graduates was not because of lack of job opportunities but was due to mismatch between qualifications acquired and current job market demands, Assistant Minister of Planning and Resource Management Naroden Majais said as such colleges and higher learning institutions should make sure that their syllabuses were relevant to the present industrial needs.

He pointed out that it was therefore very important for learning institutions to conduct some research on the actual needs of the various industries to prevent students from taking up irrelevant courses which, in the end, would lead to unemployment among graduates.

"Our human capital should be very marketable and employable not only locally but also internationally," he said, adding that this could only be achieved if the courses they attended were relevant to the current needs.

Speaking at the opening of the three-day Sarawak Zone Polytechnic Career Fair, jointly organised by Politeknik Kuching and Politeknik Mutia in Matang yesterday, Naroden said holding more similar fairs should be encouraged.

This is because apart from giving exposure to students it will also give various agencies the opportunity to spot potential employees based on their own requirements," he said.

He said that this kind of activities would help reduce unemployment among new graduates and must be encouraged not only among public colleges and learning institutions but also those run by private organisations.

He said if possible colleges and public institutions should help to carry out job placements for their students based on their respective fields.

According to him, since there has always been the dreams of most graduates to secure good or high-paying jobs upon completion of their studies, their respective learning institutions should be able to give them the correct career guidance and advice.

"Especially with the launching of Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) by the Prime Minister on February 11 2008 we hope that it will not only be able to further boost the development of the country and state but will also help create plenty of job opportunities," he said.