Youths urged to gain useful input from career carnivals

BY HARUN JAU

KUCHING: Young people in the state must prepare themselves for the job opportunities to be created by gaining useful input from career carnivals and road shows.

Second Minister of Planning and Resource Management Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hassan reiterated the advice he made during the launching of Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) in February 2008.

"SCORE is a strategic plan to create new and more systematic development which encompasses economic, industrial, social and human capital development to sustain the existing and anticipated future development that will create 1.5 million job opportunities in Sarawak by 2030," he said.

SCORE’s labour demand was expected to require 25 percent professionals and managers, 9.8 percent engineers and technicians, 25 percent semi-skilled workers and 59 percent unskilled labour, said Tengah, whose speech was read by Assistant Minister of Planning and Resource Management Haji Mohd Naroden Majais at the Sarawak Zone Polytechnic Career Carnival 2010 held at the Kuching Polytechnic multi-purpose hall in Matang here yesterday.

Tengah stressed that to ensure that the youths were marketable and employable, graduates from institutions of higher learning must show they could play a role in their respective fields of expertise, efficient in problem solving, good at communication, able to think creatively and possess quality leadership.

He said personal image, skills, ability to communicate in English would be the three factors sought for by industries or employers when selecting workers.

"The organising of this career carnival can help graduates to improve their employability and marketability. I believe this career carnival has a noble aim in equipping graduates with marketable values and make them employable in the local and international markets, thus reducing unemployment among graduates," he said.

Meanwhile, Shamsuria Mohd Ariffin, deputy director (Academic Support) of Kuching Polytechnic, said the career carnival was not just a platform offering free job promotion services for the graduates but also other services such as career clinic, career training and career interviews.

The three-day carnival also served as a one-stop centre for school leavers and graduates to obtain information on job opportunities that suited to their qualifications.

An exhibition held in conjunction with the carnival was participated by 20 companies and employment agencies.

According to Shamsuria, about RM500,000 had been allocated to Polytechnic Kuching to conduct 11 programmes, among which, were Concreting, Electro Pneumatic, Welding, Safety and Non-Destructive Testing, Mechanical Engineering (Automotive) and other courses.

She said the employability of Polytechnic graduates after three months of graduation was between 57 percent and 70 percent.

To date Kuching Polytechnic has produced over 15,000 graduates. Speaking to reporters later, Naroden said the courses offered by Kuching Polytechnic were very relevant to the present industries.

He said many Polytechnic students were already hired by Industries in Sarawak even before they graduated.

"This shows that the course certificates and diplomas issued by Polytechnic are very marketable and suitable for Sarawak industries," he said.

Also present at the function were Polytechnic Mukah deputy director (Academic Support) Rosni Zainol, assistant director (Industrial Relations Division) Polytechnic Education Department of Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia Zainah Rujihan, Kuching Polytechnic CISEC chief Mohd Agus Adlb Eskandar and Mukah Polytechnic CISEC chief Harmen Muda.