

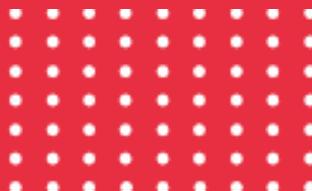


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Higher TVET intake marks significant education shift

► Govt initiatives to ensure skills training matches market demand draw more students to enrol, says Ahmad Zahid

BY FAIZ RUZMAN
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KUALA LUMPUR: More than half of Malaysia's secondary school leavers in 2024 (53.56%) chose Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as their first option, signalling a major shift in education preferences, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said yesterday.

Speaking at the Asean TVET Conference 2025 at the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur, Ahmad Zahid said over 430,000 students are enrolled in TVET institutions nationwide, supported by reforms aimed at aligning training with industry needs.

"Our graduate employability now stands at 95.1%, a clear sign that skills training is finally matching job opportunities. And in just our second year, applications to enrol in national TVET institutions have surged past 200,000," he said.

Appointed as chair of the National TVET Council in 2023, Ahmad Zahid said his mandate was to integrate policy, industry and people into a coordinated national effort.

He acknowledged that the system previously suffered from fragmented governance, inconsistent standards and a mismatch between training and market demand.

He said to address these challenges, three guiding pillars were adopted - integrating the efforts of 12 ministries under a unified vision, ensuring industry relevance in skills training and promoting inclusivity so that no community is left behind.

These initiatives have led to the launch of the National TVET Policy 2030, the TVET Big Data System and the TVET Madani Portal, which centralise access to institutions, courses and career pathways.

A new UP TVET application system also allows students to apply across ministries without bureaucratic barriers.

Malaysia has introduced TVET certification levels equivalent to higher education qualifications (Levels 6 to 8) and expanded minimum wage coverage to include semi-skilled and TVET graduates under the Malaysian Standard Classification of Occupations Code 8 and above.

Ahmad Zahid said the impact is already visible through individual success stories.

"From a fisherman's son who now works as a drone technician mapping padi fields with precision, to an Orang Asli daughter leading solar installations that light up her village, and a

former factory worker who owns a welding workshop employing 12 others.

"I believe these are proofs that skills do more than change lives; they create livelihoods," he said.

Ahmad Zahid described TVET as the "engine of regional competitiveness", aligning with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's vision in the 13th Malaysia Plan to place TVET at the heart of national growth.

"He envisions TVET as a driver for our high-growth, high-value sectors - from semiconductors and AI to renewable energy and the digital economy.

"Hence, we are embedding TVET into Malaysia's most strategic industrial zones - from the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone to Kulim Hi-Tech Park, Kerian Integrated Green Industrial Park and the Sabah-Sarawak growth corridors - ensuring that the supply of skills meets investment demand at its very source," Ahmad Zahid said.



Ahmad Zahid and Sim visit an exhibition after the conference yesterday - BERNAMAPIC

Asean hub to promote skilled worker mobility

KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi proposed the establishment of an Asean TVET Certification and Excellence Hub to standardise benchmarks, ensure mutual recognition and promote skilled worker mobility across the region.

"Our TVET journey does not stop at Malaysia's borders. We have gone to the world to strengthen our agenda, ensuring our talent is globally competitive," Ahmad Zahid said when officiating at the Asean TVET Conference 2025 at the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur.

He highlighted Malaysia's recent global collaborations, including 5,125 industrial placements in China, partnerships with the Mohamed bin Zayed University of AI in Abu Dhabi and skills exchanges with Japan, Germany and Australia.

Ahmad Zahid added that the initiative should be complemented by cross-border apprenticeship programmes, enabling students from the Philippines to train in Malaysia, Indonesians in Vietnam, and Thai graduates in Singapore, turning Asean integration into a practical reality through the movement of skills and knowledge.

Ahmad Zahid also announced plans for a new Asean Green and Digital Skills Taskforce, which would unite member states "in concrete actions, measurable targets and steadfast mutual support to cultivate the talent our

region needs".

He reaffirmed that TVET remains central to Malaysia's economic strategy, aiming to create 1.2 million high-value jobs in manufacturing and the digital economy within the next five years.

Human Resources Minister Steven Sim Chee Keong were also present at the conference.

In his keynote address, Sim said: "Firstly, Asean should be a platform to share our experiences in skills training."

Sim noted that each member state has different stages of industrialisation, and sectoral strengths could complement one another, citing Malaysia's more than half a century of high-tech manufacturing experience.

"Today we are 7% of global semiconductor trade and 13% of global semiconductor backend manufacturing," he said, adding that Malaysia aims to become a world-class skills training centre to prepare its workforce for higher-value jobs.

Sim proposed moving towards a common Asean certification framework to enable transborder recognition of skills.

"If skills are the currency of IR 4.0 (Industrial Revolution 4.0), then we must work hard towards mutual recognition," he said, suggesting that the Asean TVET Council be strengthened to take on a greater role.

He also pointed to Malaysia's legislative

amendments to recognise TVET qualifications beyond the current advanced diploma level, covering consultant and expert certifications.

He said these should meet stringent regional or global standards and allow free movement of expertise within Asean.

Sim underscored the need for investment, noting that Malaysia spends about RM10 billion annually on TVET and skills education.

"If this is an average across Asean, we are looking at about RM100 billion annual government outlays for TVET and skills training," he said.

To illustrate Malaysia's commitment to resource sharing, Sim cited the recent opening of National Training Week to Asean citizens for the first time. The programme drew 3.5 million participants and offered over 72,000 free training courses valued at RM400 million.

The two-day Asean TVET Conference 2025, jointly organised by the Human Resource Development Corporation and the Skills Development Fund Corporation Malaysia, is part of the Asean Year of Skills 2025.

This year's theme, "Advancing Digital and Green Transformations through an Inclusive and Future-Ready TVET System," brings together over 1,500 delegates from across Asean, including policymakers, industry leaders, education providers and international partners. - BY FAIZ RUZMAN

ASEAN perlu ambil pendekatan lebih kolaboratif

Kuala Lumpur: ASEAN perlu mengambil pendekatan lebih kolaboratif dalam meningkatkan ekonomi negara serantau.

Menteri Sumber Manusia, Steven Sim berkata, persaingan antara negara ASEAN tidak seharusnya bersifat zero-sum.

"Kita boleh bekerjasama meningkatkan nilai ekonomi negara masing-masing, menangani masalah global bersama, membina keupayaan tempatan dan memacu pertumbuhan hijau di rantau ini," katanya di Persidangan Pendidikan dan Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET) ASEAN 2025 di Pusat Dagangan Dunia Kuala Lumpur (WTCKL) di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, kerjasama itu boleh mencontohi pendekatan negara Eropah bergabung membangunkan industri pesawat, Airbus pada 1960-an



untuk bersaing dengan Amerika Syarikat.

"Kita seharusnya memanfaatkan kekuatan teras untuk membangunkan industri ASEAN seperti kenderaan elektrik (EV), cip, ekonomi hijau dan sektor latihan kemahiran.

"Kita sudah melakukannya baru-baru ini dengan piawaian ASEAN untuk pembiayaan hijau, rangkaian kuasa ASEAN dan Perjanjian Rangka



Bagi merealisasikan potensi ASEAN sepenuhnya, kita mesti bergerak ke arah kerjasama yang lebih tinggi dalam rangka kerja pensijilan bersama"

Steven

Ekonomi Digital ASEAN (DEFA)," katanya.

Steven berkata, bagi meningkatkan mobiliti tenaga kerja mahir, ASEAN perlu bergerak ke arah pensijilan kemahiran serantau yang diiktiraf merentasi sempadan.

"Mungkin sudah tiba masanya mewujudkan Pusat Penjelasan Kemahiran ASEAN (ASEAN skills clearing house) bagi membolehkan pengiktirafan bersama piawaian

kemahiran negara," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, ASEAN perlu menjadi platform perkongsian pengalaman dalam latihan kemahiran, perindustrian dalam sektor yang berbeza mempunyai kelebihan daya saing akan membolehkan kita saling melengkapi.

"Bagi merealisasikan potensi ASEAN sepenuhnya, kita mesti bergerak ke arah kerjasama yang lebih tinggi dalam rangka kerja pensijilan bersama.

"Malaysia kini dalam proses meminda undang-undang pembangunan kemahiran untuk mengiktiraf kelayakan TVET yang lebih tinggi melepasi had semasa iaitu diploma lanjutan TVET.

"Negara anggota ASEAN juga perlu menggalakkan pelaburan swasta dalam bidang TVET dan latihan kemahiran," katanya.

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THE STAR, THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2025

Towards a skilled Asean workforce

Zahid: Proposed taskforce would boost regional talent development

By GERARD GIMINO
and SALMA FAIRUS
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KUALA LUMPUR: The establishment of an Asean Green and Digital Skills Taskforce can unite the region and keep it future-ready, says Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also the National Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council chairman, said the proposed regional movement would allow for concrete action and measurable targets.

"Perhaps from this very gathering, we can establish a new regional movement that unites us while cultivating the talent our region needs," he said when launching the Asean TVET Conference at the World Trade Centre here yesterday.

He said the success of any one nation (in Asean) in TVET is no longer enough.

"Our workforce is increasingly regional and our challenges are shared," he said of Malaysia's proposal to establish an Asean TVET Certification and Excellence Hub, which aims to function as a central body that will set benchmarks, ensure mutual recognition and promote mobility for skilled workers across borders.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also Rural and Regional Development Minister, stressed the need to pioneer cross-border apprenticeship programmes.

"This way, a student from the Philippines can train in Malaysia,



Official launch: Ahmad Zahid with (from left) HRD Corp chief executive Dr Syed Alwi Mohamed Sultan, Sim, Human Resources Ministry secretary-general Datuk Azman Mohamad and HRD Corp board of directors chairman Datuk Abu Huraira Abu Yazid at the launch of the ASEAN TVET Conference at the World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur. — ART CHEN/The Star

an Indonesian in Vietnam and a Thai graduate in Singapore – turning Asean integration into a living reality through the movement of skills and knowledge," he said, emphasising that Malaysia's TVET journey does not stop at its borders.

According to him, Malaysia has forged impactful pathways, including 5,125 industrial placements in China, collaboration with the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence

in Abu Dhabi, and skills exchanges with Japan, Germany and Australia.

The Deputy Prime Minister added that 53.56% of Malaysia's secondary school leavers chose TVET as their first choice in 2024.

Graduate employability, he said, currently stands at 95.1%, reflecting how skills training is matching job opportunities.

"Applications to national TVET institutions have since surged

past 200,000. We have also introduced new certification levels which are equivalent to higher education qualifications.

"This gives our advanced technical graduates the credibility to compete on the global stage," he said, adding that the minimum wage coverage has also been expanded to include semi-skilled and TVET graduates.

Human Resources Minister Steven Sim, who was also present at the event, said Asean should be

a platform for experience-sharing in skills training.

"The different stages of our industrialisation and the different sectors, where each has our respective own competitive advantages, will enable us to complement each other," he said in his remarks at the launch.

Citing Malaysia's extensive experience in the high-tech manufacturing sector, specifically semiconductors, he said the country also aspires to be a world-class skills training centre.

"Our unique national experience will surely be useful to fellow member states who are perhaps exploring similar paths. Malaysia too, can benefit from learning from our neighbours," said Sim.

The Asean TVET Conference is jointly organised by the Human Resource Development Corporation and the Skills Development Fund Corporation Malaysia.

It is the fourth flagship platform under the Asean Year of Skills 2025.

Themed "Advancing Digital and Green Transformations through an Inclusive and Future-Ready TVET System", the two-day conference explores how the region can enhance the quality, relevance and accessibility of TVET to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving economy.

WATCH THE VIDEO
TheStarTV.com



BH Khamis, 14 Ogos 2025

Nasional

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Syor tubuh petugas kemahiran hijau bangun bakat TVET ASEAN

Gerakan serantau baharu ambil tindakan konkrit, bentuk ekosistem sokongan tenaga kerja inklusif

Oleh Zanariah Abd Mutalib
zanariah_mutalib@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia mencadangkan penubuhan Pasukan Petugas Kemahiran Hijau dan Digital ASEAN yang akan menyatukan negara rantau ini membangunkan bakat yang diperlukan dalam bidang Pendidikan dan Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET).

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, berkata gerakan serantau baharu itu berperanan mengambil tindakan yang konkrit, menetapkan sasaran yang boleh diukur dan membentuk ekosistem sokongan antara negara ASEAN ke arah tenaga kerja inklusif, bersedia untuk masa depan dan menerajui industri TVET global.

Beliau yang juga Pengerusi Majlis TVET Negara, berkata Malaysia sebelum ini mencadangkan penubuhan Himpunan dan Kecemerlangan TVET ASEAN sebagai sebuah badan pusat yang menetapkan penanda aras, memastikan pengiktirafan bersama dan menggalakkan mobiliti pekerja mahir merentasi sempadan.

"Kejayaan satu negara dalam TVET sahaja tidak lagi mencukupi. Tenaga kerja kita kini semakin bersifat serantau dan ca-



Ahmad Zahid pada Persidangan Pendidikan dan Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET) ASEAN di Pusat Dagangan Dunia Kuala Lumpur (WTCKL), semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

baran yang kita hadapi adalah cabaran bersama.

"Kita juga mesti menerajui program perantisan rentas sempadan, yang mana seorang pelajar dari Filipina boleh menjalani latihan di Malaysia, graduan Indonesia di Vietnam dan graduan dari Thailand di Singapura, menjadikan integrasi ASEAN satu realiti yang hidup melalui pergerakan kemahiran dan pengetahuan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika berucap merasmikan Persidangan TVET ASEAN, dengan tema "Memajukan Transformasi Digital dan Hijau Melalui Sistem TVET Inklusif dan Bersedia Untuk Masa Depan", di sini semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Menteri Sumber Manusia, Steven Sim.

Ahmad Zahid berkata, Malaysia melaksanakan reformasi meluas dalam bidang TVET, dengan menetapkan pelan hala tuju yang jelas melalui Dasar TVET Negara 2030.

Pelbagai inisiatif dilaksanakan
Katanya, pelbagai inisiatif dilaksanakan di bawah dasar itu, termasuk membangunkan Sistem Data Raya TVET, pangkalan data bersepadu bagi rujukan pusat-pihak berkepentingan dan portal TVET MADANI, gerbang sehati kepada institusi, kursus dan laluan kerjaya.

Selain itu, Sistem UP TVET turut diperkenalkan, satu sistem permohonan TVET tanpa sempadan yang menghubungkan pelajar kepada peluang melanjutkan pengajian di institusi awam

dan swasta, merentasi kementerian dan menghapuskan tembok birokrasi.

"Alhamdulillah, reformasi ini mula mengubah landskap negara. Pada 2024, lebih separuh, iaitu 53.56 peratus lepasan sekolah menengah di Malaysia memilih TVET sebagai pilihan pertama mereka dan lebih 430,000 pelajar kini mengikuti pengajian di institusi TVET di seluruh negara.

"Kebolehpasaran graduan kita kini berada pada kadar 95.1 peratus, satu petanda jelas latihan kemahiran kini selari dengan peluang pekerjaan dan hanya dalam tahun kedua pelaksanaannya, permohonan untuk melanjutkan pengajian ke institusi TVET nasional melepasi 200,000 permohonan," katanya.

Ahmad Zahid berkata, Mala-

ysia kini sedang menyepadukan TVET ke dalam zon, industri paling strategik negara, membabitkan Zon Ekonomi Khas Johor-Singapura (JS-SEZ), Taman Teknologi Tinggi Kulim (KHTP), Taman Perindustrian Hijau Bersepadu Kerian (KIGIP) dan Koridor pertumbuhan Sabah-Sarawak bagi memastikan bekalan kemahiran seiring dengan permintaan pelaburan di peringkat sumber.

"Ini bukan reformasi terasing. Ini adalah sebahagian misi nasional untuk melonjakkan Malaysia ke dalam kelompok 20 terbaik dunia dalam Indeks Inovasi Global dan untuk mencipta 1.2 juta pekerjaan bernilai tinggi dalam sektor pembuatan serta ekonomi digital dalam tempoh lima tahun akan datang.