



KEMENTERIAN SUMBER MANUSIA

“

KERATAN AKHBAR KESUMA”

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62 celebrated for ESG excellence

Awards highlight companies driving sustainability, responsible business practices

By ARFA YUNUS
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PETALING JAYA: Recognising trailblazing environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices, 62 winners were celebrated at the ESG Positive Impact Awards (ESG PIA) 2024 for their exceptional contributions to sustainability and responsible business conduct.

The third edition of the annual awards programme, held at a hotel here last night, spotlighted companies whose ESG initiatives are shaping a better, more inclusive and sustainable future for the country.

Themed "Celebrating ESG Excellence", the gala night paid tribute to companies that are integrating ESG values into their operations beyond profit margins.

The 62 awards were presented to 36 winning companies, covering a range of sectors and business scales.

Two companies stood out with exceptional projects, each receiving the Most Outstanding ESG Initiative 2024 Award.

Under the SME and Mid-Tier, Above Creative Events (M) Sdn Bhd was recognised for its impactful work in Human Rights & Labour Standards.

For Large Companies Tier, Heineken Malaysia Bhd earned accolades for its commitment to Water Management and Efficiency.

Gold Award winners in specific categories included MISC Bhd for Biodiversity Conservation, Malaysia Steel Works (KL) Bhd for Energy Efficiency, Alliance Bank Malaysia Bhd for Relations with Local Communities and Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) for Transformation among others.

Into its third year, the ESG PIA has established itself as a benchmark for corporate sustainability efforts in Malaysia.

Organised by Star Media Group (SMG) Bhd and advised by Ernst & Young, the initiative is supported by a wide network of partners and endorsed by the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry (MitI) and the Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Ministry (NRES).

Human Resources Minister Steven Sim, who was the special guest at the event, said Malaysia must re-evaluate its economic model to withstand rising geopolitical and economic pressures.

He called for long-term investments in local talent and innovation to ensure national resilience, and highlighted the urgent need for Malaysia to chart its own path amid a polarised global environment.

"We must rethink our economic model if we are to survive the binary geopolitical and geoeconomic challenges – on one hand, direct global competition and on the other, growing superpower protectionism," he said.

Sim said Malaysia should invest heavily in home-grown capabilities including talent, technologies, products and services, as well as trademarks, including Malaysian



One for the album: The ESG Positive Impact Awards 2024 winners posing for a photo with (front row, from left) Wang, Chan, Ching, Micky, Sim, Heineken Malaysia Bhd corporate affairs and legal director Renuka Indrarajah, Wong, Tan, Nor Hasnah and Esther at One World Hotel in Petaling Jaya. — GLENN GUAN/The Star



In the spotlight: Chan delivering his remarks at the ESG Positive Impact Awards 2024 Gala Night. — NG KOK LEONG/The Star

brands and patents. "Fundamentally, we need to invest in long-term strategies that enhance the economic value chain in ways that benefit both people and the environment," he said.

SMG group CEO Chan Seng Fatt, in his welcoming address, said of the winners: "These are the leaders proving that the future of business lies not just in profit, but in purpose – not just in growth, but in impact."

"We celebrate ESG changemakers – those with the conviction that business must be a force for good, and the courage to act on it."

OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Bhd, the event's main sponsor since 2022,

reiterated its commitment to supporting ESG advancement across Malaysia.

"As a bank, we remain committed to enabling the transition by empowering our clients, communities and stakeholders to pursue long-term, positive impact."

"Congratulations to all the winners and nominees. Your vision, leadership and innovation are what will shape a more sustainable tomorrow," said CEO Tan Chor Sen in a statement.

Above Creative Events founder Micky Ng said the award held deep meaning for the company as ESG principles were embedded in its core operations.

"It means a lot to us because ESG is not just a policy – it's a

standard, and it is part of our core business strategy.

"I feel that this recognition is proof of that commitment. It is a significant result and a meaningful reward for us as well," she said.

Heineken Malaysia managing director Martijn van Keulen said the award was a meaningful recognition of the company's approach to ESG and the efforts of its teams.

"I think it's a recognition for all of us – for our company and the way we approach our ESG initiatives."

"It is also a huge booster for our teams to keep going and continue leading the way for Malaysia. So go Malaysia, go Heineken

Malaysia!" he added.

Representing NRES at the event was secretary-general Datuk Dr Ching Thoo, and MitI by its senior director (Industry, Environmental, Social and Governance) Nor Hasnah Badroddin.

SMG chairman Tan Sri Wong Foon Meng, chief operating officer Lydia Wang and chief content officer Datin Paduka Esther Ng were also present.

This year's programme saw participation from large companies including PETRONAS Dagangan Bhd, Sime Darby Property Bhd, Sunway Bhd, Johor Port Bhd and IOI Properties Group, besides SMEs and mid-tier firms.

Awards were presented across 16 categories under four main pillars – Environment, Social, Governance and Others – ranging from Renewable Energy and Waste Management to Talent Management and Innovative Partnership.

As part of its continued push for ESG leadership, SMG announced the upcoming Asia ESG Summit to be held from Nov 5 to 7.

The event will bring together regional leaders, investors and changemakers to explore innovative and transformative ESG strategies.

In conjunction with the summit, the inaugural Asia ESG Positive Impact Awards 2025 will take place on Nov 6.

WATCH THE VIDEO
TheStarTV.com



THE STAR, WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2025

Nation 9

BOOSTING GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

By MARK RYAN RAJ
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IN A significant stride towards integrated workforce recruitment, Talent Corporation Malaysia Bhd (TalentCorp), a strategic think tank under the Human Resources Ministry (Kesuma), has rolled out a centralised digital ecosystem to streamline expatriate talent hiring procedures.

The new system integrates the MYFutureJobs platform and Foreign Workers Integrated Management System (ePPAX) into Xpats Gateway, simplifying the approval process for employers and strengthening Malaysia's digital governance.

This strategic move aims to streamline the process of connecting global talent with local opportunities, promising greater efficiency for businesses and clearer pathways for international professionals looking to navigate the Malaysian job market.

It creates a more cohesive and structured ecosystem for talent acquisition, making it simpler for local businesses to tap into a global pool of skilled individuals.

Human Resources Minister Steven Sim Chee Keong said that this move reflects the country's commitment to improving regulatory coherence. The improved system marks the operationalisation of an automatically synchronised and end-to-end digital expatriate approval ecosystem.

"By streamlining the process, we are re-engineering and advancing government service delivery, raising productivity and reinforcing Malaysia as a competitive, investment-ready economy," he said during a media briefing held at Sofitel Kuala Lumpur in Bukit Damansara on July 7.

"Integrating these platforms creates seamless, automated connectivity, making it a one-stop channel for businesses and employers."

He added that key regulatory requirements have been merged into the new Xpats Gateway system – Section 60K of the Employment Act 1955, regulated by the Peninsular Malaysia Labour Department (JTKSM), and the MYFutureJobs acknowledgement letter, administered by the Social Security Organisation (Perkeso).

Coordinating through digitalisation

Launched two years ago by TalentCorp, Xpats Gateway is a single-window online platform for expatriate application procedures, connecting 26 regulatory bodies and approving agencies.

The integration of MYFutureJobs and ePPAX within the system went live on July 1.

Previously, employers had to navigate their applications on three separate platforms – MYFutureJobs, ePPAX and Xpats Gateway – with varying approvals that took months to complete.

Now, the newly integrated system offers key improvements, such as:

> **Eliminating redundancies:** Companies can streamline their



(From left) Sheikh Farouk, Mathew, Mohd Shaharin, Sim, Zakaria, Mohamad Norjayadi and Godderis at the official media briefing held at Sofitel Kuala Lumpur in Bukit Damansara on July 7. – CHAN TAK KONG/The Star

processes, reducing repetitive data entry by 70%.

> **Shortening approval timelines:** JTKSM and MYFutureJobs applications can be submitted concurrently, with processing times reduced to 10 working days each.

> **Enabling greater transparency and fraud prevention:** Employers can track application status in real time, and all data and documents are sourced directly from official systems, reducing the risk of fraudulent submissions.

Since its launch on July 1, Sim said that approximately 100 local organisations have used the new integrated system, with some already receiving first-stage approvals.

He added that the system is expected to reduce turnaround times for application approvals to within 20 days.

Sim also highlighted that there is on-arrival support for expatriates at the Expatriate Satellite Centres (ESC) in KLIA 1 and 2, facilitating employers and foreign talent to begin the employment process as soon as they land.

"Previously, employers had to take expatriates to their temporary accommodations until they received their expatriate Employment Pass (EP), before commencing work – which could take up to a month," said Sim.

"Now, with the ESCs, the moment an expatriate lands in Malaysia, they will receive their EP and can start work immediately, if needed. This saves employers and hirers nearly RM500mil in annual expatriate support.

"That's what we're trying to do, increase the efficiency of service and reduce costs, so that companies can conduct their

business effectively."

The Ministry's deputy secretary-general (policy and international) Dr Mohd Shaharin Umar said this system will improve public sector efficiency and aid the country in identifying and filling skill gaps.

"This integration is part of the government's initiative to provide a more holistic hiring ecosystem. It is the first step in our long-term plan," he said.

"Having a centralised data repository will make it easier for us to address any skill mismatches and fill gaps, while also improving local employability prospects through reskilling and upskilling initiatives."

With approximately 100,000 expatriate applications annually, Immigration Department director-general Datuk Zakaria Shaaban added that the integration will shorten processing times for expatriate EP approval, facilitating a growing and more progressive economy.

"This collaboration is an example of a whole-of-government approach to strengthening investor confidence, upholding national security and delivering more trustworthy and transparent public services," said Zakaria.

"Based on recent statistics, there has been an increase in expatriates, with over 138,000 currently in the country.

"This is an indication that we are headed towards a more successful economy, and that business opportunities are increasing, which is why the need for hiring expatriates has increased."

Enhancing global competitiveness

The initiative also seeks to support the country's competitiveness as a global investment

destination, benefitting employers, government agencies, citizens and expatriates.

TalentCorp group chief executive officer Thomas Mathew said the move not only reduces redundancies but will also enhance Malaysia's global competitiveness.

"We live in a world which is very competitive and a region that is even more so. Moving forward, we will look at how we can further improve the process," he said.

"One aspect we are looking at is integrating artificial intelligence (AI) processing in Xpats Gateway. AI can assess and process data and documents at a faster rate, making it easier to conduct business in the country, attract more foreign investments, create more high-skilled jobs for our youth and ultimately grow the economy."

Malaysia Employers Federation (MEF) chief executive Sheikh Farouk Sheikh Mohamed echoed Mathew's statements, highlighting that the digitalised system will improve the ease of doing business for companies.

"We live in the era of AI, and we can't run away from it. With the current global economic standards and rising costs of business, we have to embrace digitalisation.

"Doing so will increase the productivity level of the economy and reduce the cost of furthering business opportunities," he said.

European Chamber of Commerce (Eurocham) Malaysia chief executive officer Karl Godderis added that strategic improvements like this enhance competition with other developing nations, positioning Malaysia as an ideal destination for expatriates.

"Malaysia is not the only

country in the region vying for investor attention. You have to compete for it," he said.

"In the last few years, the country has been successful in attracting more foreign direct investment thanks to the increase in knowledge transfer.

"Knowledge transfer requires the mobility of people, so this initiative – which enables a much faster and transparent transfer process to move people – is a smart move in promoting Malaysia as a global investment destination.

"We live in a time where time-effectiveness is paramount, and investors expect no less."

Meanwhile, Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) deputy director-general Dr Mohamad Norjayadi Tamam said Xpats Gateway is a key enabler of the Madani Economy framework, as it aligns with national goals to position Malaysia among the world's top 12 most competitive economies by 2033.

"Through this initiative, we have already seen sector-related improvements in terms of efficiency, which has increased business productivity as well," he said.

"By having this centralised system, we provide a platform for everyone involved to identify how we can further improve. With continuous enhancements, we will be on course to achieve the aspiration of our Madani economy."

He added that this efficient and modern approach to workforce approvals has already made an impact on the country, as Malaysia rose 11 spots to the 23rd position in the 2025 IMD World Competitiveness Rankings, driven by improvements in business efficiency and digital readiness.

HRD Corp anjur ATMC perkasa ekosistem serantau

KUALA LUMPUR – Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) di bawah Kementerian Sumber Manusia (Kesuma) menganjurkan Persidangan Pasaran Latihan ASEAN (ATMC) sebagai usaha bersepadu memperkasa ekosistem bekalan latihan serantau bagi menghadapi cabaran ekonomi dan teknologi masa kini.

Timbalan Menteri Sumber Manusia, Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Mohamad berkata, persidangan itu khusus kepada keperluan meningkatkan kemahiran (*upskilling*) dan kemahiran semula (*reskilling*) tenaga kerja di rantau ini terutamanya Malaysia.

Menurutnya, ini kerana *upskilling* dan *reskilling* dilihat mampu menangani isu ketidakpadanan pekerjaan.

"Kalau kita tidak meng-



ABDUL RAHMAN

anjurkan program sebegini, kita akan tertinggal. Ertinya, kita sekarang sedang berubah ke arah menjadi negara maju.

"Apabila saya menyebut AI (kecerdasan buatan), inilah perubahan sangat ketara di dunia pada hari ini dan sudah pasti Malaysia tidak mahu ketinggalan. Menerusi kemahiran dalam pasaran latihan ini, kita ingin tangani isu 'mismatch' kerja bukan sahaja di negara ini, malah dalam konteks ASEAN," katanya selepas merasmikan ATMC di sini pada Selasa.

Hadir sama Ketua Setiausaha Kesuma, Datuk Azman Mohd Yusof dan Pengerusi HRD Corp, Datuk Abu Huraira Abu Yazid.

Terdahulu, ATMC bertemakan *'Empowering ASEAN's Training Supply; Bridging Skill Gap, Innovation and Collaboration for a Future - Ready Economy'* menghimpunkan lebih 500 peserta tempatan dan antarabangsa.

Antara tumpuan utama diketengahkan termasuk memperluaskan penggunaan platform digital, alat pembelajaran berasaskan AI serta kaedah penyampaian hibrid.

Tambah beliau, perkembangan teknologi AI dan pendigitalan bukanlah ancaman kepada pasaran kerja, sebaliknya memberi permintaan lebih tinggi terhadap pekerja berkemahiran digital.

"Di Parlimen, ramai yang tanya saya dan menyatakan apa-



Abdul Rahman (tengah) bersama Azman (dua dari kiri) dan Abu Huraira (dua dari kanan) merasmikan ATMC pada Selasa.

bila kita terlibat dengan dunia digital sekarang seperti AI umpamanya, maka peluang pekerjaan menjadi kurang. Sebenarnya silap, peluang pekerjaan akan bertambah.

"Jika dahulu banyak kerja dilakukan secara manual dan menggunakan kertas, kini semuanya beralih kepada sistem digital. Maka, kita perlu melatih semula pekerja supaya dapat menguasai teknologi digital ini.

"Dalam proses ini, kita juga akan mewujudkan lebih banyak peluang pekerjaan baharu," ujarnya.

Sementara itu, Abu Huraira berkata, ATMC bukan sahaja bertujuan memperkukuh pembekalan latihan di Malaysia,

tetapi membina ekosistem serantau yang saling menyokong pertumbuhan ASEAN.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya bangga dapat menampilkan pelbagai inovasi serantau dan perkongsian rentas negara dalam program tersebut.

"Kerjasama dan jalinan terbentuk di sini akan memastikan tenaga kerja kita kekal berdaya saing, mudah menyesuaikan diri dan berdaya tahan dalam menghadapi perubahan global.

"Bersama-sama kita mampu meningkatkan kualiti dan capaian pasaran latihan untuk memberi manfaat kepada rakyat dan ekonomi kita," jelasnya.

Putri Qisya layak terima manfaat PERKESO

ALOR SETAR - Anak sulung kepada mangsa tragedi enam beranak di Sungai Korok, Jitra disahkan layak menerima Pencen Penakat daripada Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (PERKESO) hasil caruman Allahyarham bapanya.

PERKESO dalam satu kenyataan memaklumkan, Allahyarham Mohamad Azim Izat Ishak, 32, yang terkorban dalam nahas berkenaan merupakan pencarum aktif bawah Akta Keselamatan Sosial Pekerja 1969 (Akta 4), dengan rekod pekerjaan terakhir sebagai pengawal keselamatan.

Menerusi caruman itu, waris yang merupakan anak sulung, Putri Qisya

Nur Izzat, 12, layak menerima Faedah Pengurusan Mayat (FPM) sebanyak RM3,000 secara sekali bayar serta Pencen Penakat bulanan sehingga berusia 21 tahun atau hingga tamat ijazah pertama.

"PERKESO menzahirkan rasa simpati dan dukacita yang mendalam atas kejadian menyayat hati ini dan kekal komited untuk memastikan kebajikan waris mangsa terus terpelihara.

"Justeru, bantuan tambahan termasuk intervensi pendidikan, penjagaan emosi dan psikososial sedang diperinci menerusi Program Sinergi Sosial demi memastikan anak

sulung arwah mendapat sokongan jangka panjang sewajarnya," menurut kenyataan itu.

Katanya, tragedi ini menjadi bukti nyata mengenai peri penting sistem perlindungan sosial yang bukan sekadar berperanan sebagai perlindungan kewangan, tetapi benteng terakhir buat keluarga pekerja andai berdepan situasi luar jangka.



Putri Qisya (kiri) layak menerima Pencen Penakat daripada PERKESO.

Kad Pekerja MADANI bantu ringankan kos sara hidup

Oleh AHMAD SHAHERMAN SHAMSURI

PETALING JAYA – Bagi mengurangkan beban kos sara hidup termasuk pelarasan kadar cukai jualan dan perkhidmatan (SST) serta tarif elektrik pekerja berkesatuan, Kementerian Sumber Manusia (KESUMA) telah memperkenalkan Kad Pekerja MADANI.

Dilancarkan secara rasmi pada 1 Mei lalu oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim sempena sambutan Hari Pekerja, kad itu bertujuan untuk membantu meringankan beban pekerja melalui penawaran diskaun yang praktikal, relevan dan mudah diakses.

Berbentuk digital dan dilengkapi dengan kod QR, kad itu membolehkan pengguna menyimpan kad dengan mudah di premis-premis yang mengambil bahagian.

Pendekatan digital ini membolehkan penggunaan yang lebih pantas, tanpa keperluan kad fizikal, serta selari dengan inisiatif pengalihan perkhidmatan awam.

Ia juga menjadi pelengkap sokongan kepada usaha kerajaan dalam memastikan kesejahteraan rakyat pekerja terus terpelihara di tengah perubahan ekonomi.

Lebih istimewa, kad itu menawarkan potongan harga sehingga 30 peratus bagi barang keperluan, perkhidmatan, kesihatan dan pendidikan kepada ahli kesatuan sekerja berdaftar, dengan kerjasama lebih 100 syarikat rakan strategik di seluruh negara.

Malah, ia juga boleh digunakan untuk pembelian pelbagai barangan dan perkhidmatan termasuk di pasar raya seperti makanan dan minuman, pakaian, serta perjalanan dan penginapan.

Antara syarikat yang telah



POSTER menunjukkan cara membuat permohonan kad pekerja MADANI dengan cara yang lebih mudah.

menyertai inisiatif ini termasuk Mydin, Starbucks Coffee, ZUS Coffee, Merrybrown, Resort World Genting, Jungle Gym, Ripley's Adventureland, SOCAR Mobility Malaysia, dan The Top Penang.

Justeru, orang ramai terutamanya pekerja berkesatuan yang ingin mendapatkan Kad Pekerja MADANI boleh memohonnya secara dalam talian melalui laman sesawang rasmi kadpekerjamadani.mohr.gov.my.

Langkah pertama permohonan, pengguna perlu mendaftar akaun pengguna dengan mengisi maklumat asas seperti nama, e-mel, nombor kad pengenalan dan kata laluan.



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Kad itu menawarkan potongan harga bagi sehingga 30 peratus bagi barang keperluan, perkhidmatan, kesihatan dan pendidikan kepada ahli kesatuan sekerja berdaftar.

Kemudian, log masuk ke sistem menggunakan e-mel dan kata laluan yang telah didaftarkan di aplikasi Kad Pekerja MADANI. Selepas selesai meneken butang 'Mohon Sekarang', isi maklumat lengkap seperti maklumat peribadi, maklumat kesatuan sekerja yang dianggotai dan maklumat majikan semasa.

Setelah maklumat lengkap diisi, hantar permohonan untuk semakan. Permohonan ini akan disalurkan kepada wakil kesatuan masing-masing.

Pihak kesatuan akan menyemak permohonan dan mengesahkan keahlian serta maklumat yang diberikan. Hanya permohonan yang sah dan tepat akan diluluskan. Apabila diluluskan, pengguna boleh memuat turun dan mengakses Kad Pekerja MADANI mereka secara terus melalui sistem.

Kad boleh terus diimbas atau dipaparkan di kaunter semasa membuat pembelian di premis rakan strategik.

Sehingga Julai 2025, sejumlah 173,325 individu telah mendaftar dalam sistem Kad Pekerja MADANI, dengan 147,534 permohonan lengkap diterima.

Seramai 11,587 pekerja telah menerima kad mereka, manakala selebihnya masih dalam proses semakan dan pengesahan oleh kesatuan masing-masing.

KESUMA menyoalakan supaya sejuta pekerja menerima manfaat Kad Pekerja

KAD PEKERJA MADANI

- Dilancarkan pada 1 Mei lalu oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim sempena sambutan Hari Pekerja.
- Kad ini khusus kepada ahli kesatuan sekerja berdaftar.
- Berbentuk digital dan dilengkapi dengan kod QR membolehkan pengguna menyimpan kad dengan mudah di premis-premis yang mengambil bahagian.
- Menawarkan potongan harga sehingga 30 peratus bagi barang keperluan, perkhidmatan, kesihatan dan pendidikan kepada ahli kesatuan sekerja berdaftar.
- Boleh juga boleh digunakan untuk pelbagai barangan dan perkhidmatan seperti makanan dan minuman, pakaian, serta perjalanan dan penginapan.
- Lebih 100 syarikat rakan strategik di seluruh negara menyertai inisiatif ini.
- Antara syarikat yang telah menyertai inisiatif itu termasuk Mydin, Starbucks Coffee, ZUS Coffee, Merrybrown, Resort World Genting, Jungle Gym, Ripley's Adventureland, SOCAR Mobility Malaysia, dan The Top Penang.

MADANI menjelang akhir tahun ini.

Ini adalah bukti nyata komitmen kerajaan MADANI dalam menyantuni golongan pekerja dengan pendekatan yang inklusif dan praktikal.

Kad Pekerja MADANI hadir tepat pada masanya sebagai bantuan untuk meringankan beban dan sebagai dorongan kepada pekerja untuk terus maju.

Melalui satu permohonan mudah, anda bukan sahaja menjimatkan kos harian, tetapi turut menjadi sebahagian daripada ekosistem pekerja yang lebih kukuh, dihargai dan dilindungi. Inilah erti sebenar Malaysia MADANI.

Untuk pertanyaan lanjut, orang ramai boleh menghubungi ibu pejabat JHEKS atau pejabat negeri berhampiran, atau e-mel kepada kadpekerjamadani@mohr.gov.my.

Daftar dan mohon sekarang di laman rasmi kadpekerjamadani.mohr.gov.my dan nikmati pelbagai faedah sebagai penghargaan atas jasa anda sumbangan anda kepada negara.

KAD pekerja MADANI memberi manfaat yang meluas kepada pekerja berkesatuan.

