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Strengthening Mara's education ecosystem

"UniKL is also in ventures with leading industry players like Huawei. We are committed to making UniKL the top 100 universities in Asia, with a focus on industry training, emulating the German method."

REVAMPING TVET
Hasnita said that there is a stigma against TVET among Malaysians. However, there is a demand for both skills and paper qualifications in the job market.

"We are facing a high unemployment rate among graduates in our country. I believe one of the main reasons is our graduates don't possess the skills required by the industry. They lack industry experience.

"Upon graduation, students may be 30 per cent ready for desired jobs but the industry prefers graduates to be 70 per cent ready as it doesn't have to invest much in employee training."

In regards to this, Mara has announced linkages with industry players which offer equipment, facilities, teacher's training, internship placement and job guarantee for graduates.

"We are revamping our TVET programme. The blueprint is based on what is needed by the industry which is within the nine sectors. Mara will refer to the industry in outlining what is necessary so that the modules meet industry standards.

"Moreover, the institutions will get certification from the industry which later may add value and boost students' credibility when they enter the workforce. With the dual certification from Mara and the industry, there will be confidence in hiring our graduates.

"Some of our Giatmara students have secured high paying jobs that pay RM5,000 to RM6,000 three months after graduation."

Four IKMs have introduced the Diploma in Computer Technology. Mara will be announcing a few tie-ups with banks where they will provide scholarships and job guarantee for the students.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Mara has always been committed to providing financial assistance to students from under-privileged families, said Hasnita.

"We are expanding the Education Financial Assistance (BUDI) programme as students may opt out of MRSM due to financial constraints. The programme receives support from private corporations to sponsor school fees, uniforms, school supplies and other essentials.

"In addition, students from less well-to-do households are exempted from paying school fees and receive an allowance from Mara.

"Meanwhile for International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) students, Mara will pay the examination fees for eligible students."

For the MRSM intake, Mara has strengthened the policy of 60 per cent of students who are from the B40 groups and 10 per cent allocations for the non-Bumiputera. It has also allocated a 20 per cent and 10 per cent quota for the M20 and T20 groups respectively.

Another significant education initiative of Mara is sponsorship. Students who are eligible for the sponsorship may further their studies locally or outside the country.

"Again, we want to encourage students to pursue the nine areas because we want to prepare them to be the future workforce for the country. However, this does not mean Mara won't fund other programmes.

"Among the sponsorships offered by Mara are the Young Talent Programme and Graduate Excellence Programme.

"Last year, we introduced the World's Top Universities (WTU) programme to provide study loans to excellent students who were offered a place to pursue their first degree at the said universities.

"Previously, WTU was only for degree level but we are looking into expanding it for master's and PhD students. We are not only looking at the ranking of the university but will also base it on the top universities offering programmes related to the nine sectors.

"We want to make sure that our students end up with high paying jobs. So, we give them guidance on the areas and the industry.

"After graduation, we help them get jobs. Although unnecessary for us to do so, it completes the cycle."

HELP FOR ALL
While 60 per cent of MRSM students will come from the B40 group, Hasnita believes that it is healthy to have a mix of races and social classes in educational establishments.

Students will learn to be competitive and not to just stay within their comfort zone, she said.

"The M40 also needs help because these are the urban poor. Thus, we also have allocation for students from this group. We also have 10 per cent allocated for the non-Bumiputeras which are usually not fully taken up.

"We hope that more non-Bumiputeras will enter MRSM.

"As for WTU , we have outlined a range of household salaries as one of the requirements, where it can include the higher M40.

"For example, a household earning RM20,000 cannot afford a child to study at Oxford University. This is why we should not leave out the M40 groups.

"We need to help these talented students. If your child is bright, why not?"

German Malaysia Institute students installing cables at the Cybersecurity lab.

NINE FOCUS AREAS

1. Engineering & Environment
• Chemical Engineering
• Civil Engineering
• Mechanical
• Electrical Electronic
• Robotics & Automation
• Telecommunication Engineering
• Mechatronic
• Nanotechnology
• Petroleum Engineering
• Solar Energy
• Wind Energy
• Environmental Engineering

2. Marketing, Business & Management
• Sales
• Marketing Management
• E-business
• International Business
• Business Management
• Human Resource Management
• Economics
• Logistics Management
• Supply Chain Management
• Online Sales & Supply
• Mass Communication

• Advertising & Brand Management
• Film, TV, Video Broadcasting
• Marketing Communications
• Public Relations

3. IT & Computer Design
• Game Design
• Animation
• Apps Design
• Web Design
• Graphic Design
• Multimedia Design or Advertising Design
• Virtual Reality

4. IT & Computer Science
• AI or Intelligent Systems
• Bioinformatics
• Cyber Security
• Business Information System
• Cloud Computing
• Computer Engineering
• Data Analysis or Data Science
• Internet of Things
• Network Computing
• Programming
• Software Engineering

• Computer Security
• Computer Games Development

5. Build Professionals
• Architecture
• Interior Architecture
• Interior Design
• Quantity Surveying

6. Accounting & Finance
• Actuarial Science
• Banking & Finance
• Banking & Investments
• Financial Engineering
• Financial Technology
• Islamic Banking & Finance
• Accounting
• Risk Management

7. Medical Science
• Specialists Cardio, Oncologist, Radiologist, Dermatologist
• Biomedical Science
• Medical Lab Technology
• Medical Imaging
• Pharmacy
• Medicine (selective) MBBS
• Nursing

• Sports Medicine Rehabilitation
• Physiotherapy
• Veterinary Science

8. Food Security
• Agriculture
• Aquatic Marine Science
• Biotechnology
• Food Science With Nutrition

9. Transport Engineering
• Automotive, Heavy Vehicles, Trains, Aircraft, Marine
• Auto Design
• Safety
• Emissions
• Electric
• Noise, Vibration and Harshness
• Vehicle Electronics
• Durability
• Material
• Parts Design Production
• Testing
• Maintenance

MARA ECOSYSTEM

MRSM
• Premier
- National curriculum with MSM curriculum.
• Bitara
- High achievers in students' development and potentials.
• Ulul albab
- National curriculum with Islamic study programme.
• Dual certification IGCSE
- National curriculum and Cambridge IGCSE.
• IBMYP
- National curriculum using the Middle Years Programme and International Baccalaureate framework.
• Technical
- Engineering and technology.

TVET
• Kuala Lumpur University
• German-Malaysian Institute
• Mara Japan Industrial Institute
• Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi Mara
• Institusi Kemahiran Mara
• Giatmara

Higher Education
• Kolej Mara
• Kolej Universiti Poly-Tech Mara
• Kolej Poly-Tech Mara
• Kolej Profesional Mara
• Kuala Lumpur University

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