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Trainers Convention on HRD programmes

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AN ASIA Trainers' Convention aimed at addressing issues relating to human resources development in the Asia-Pacific region will be held for the first time in Malaysia on December 11 to 13 this year.

The venue of the event will be at the Penang International Sports Arena.

Themed "Benchmarking Human Resources Development Technology", TMS Trainers chairman Gary Teoh Kiang-Hong said the convention will focus on showcases of practical applications of human resources development programmes and activities in the industry, with particular emphasis on the information technology era.

"Over 40 workshops will be conducted over the three-day period. These workshops will provide benchmarks for human resources development practitioners to adopt and adapt to their own organisations," he said at the launch of the convention's logo by Padang Kota State Assemblyman Teng Chang Yeow in Penang yesterday.

Teoh said the objectives of the convention are:

- * To create an opportunity for networking amongst training professionals from the Asia-Pacific region;

- * To generate business opportunities in the area of human resources development within Malaysia as well as in the Asia-Pacific region; and

- * To update Asian managers on the current trends and thinking in the field of human resources development.

"We hope to bring together local as well as foreign training professionals such as training managers, administrators, trainers, consultants and training providers," he said.

Teoh said the convention will consist of two component events - a conference and an exhibition.

"We expect some 1,000 participants at the conference and some 200 exhibitors, of which 60 per cent of the exhibitors will be locals and the rest from countries such as Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Australia, the US and Europe.

"We expect a visitor turnout of 10,000 to the exhibition," he said.

One of the main highlights of the conference is a special keynote address by Dr Kenichi Ohmae, who is the adviser to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project.

"He will be addressing critical issues relating to human resources development in the coming millennium," Teoh said.

He added that it is hoped that a consensus on the direction of human resources development in the Asia-Pacific region will be reached by the end of the convention.

In a speech read by Teng, Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said "the Penang State Government has time and again reiterated the importance of human resource development as it is one of the most vital and crucial elements in developing a nation.

"This is particularly pertinent in view of the tremendous response from the global business community to the MSC project which has been so successfully promoted by Malaysia's Prime Minister," he said.

Dr Koh said the MSC will herald in an era of unprecedented challenges for Malaysia and the world at large.

"Information technology and multimedia technology will create new business environments where traditional strategies, entrenched forms of organisation and macroeconomic policies will be radically challenged.

"The unimpeded flow of investment, industry, information and individuals across the national borders forces nation and organisations alike to relook and redefine their businesses," he said.

Faced with such challenges, Dr Koh said, Malaysia's future will be determined by how well we are able to manage our human potential to support the process of industrial transformation.

The Asia Trainers' Convention '97 is organised by Penang-based TMS Trainers (Asia) Sdn Bhd, with the support of the Penang State Government, Human Resources Development Council of Malaysia and the Asean-EC Management Centre.

Business Times is the official print media for the convention.

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