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Nov 20 congress to focus on role of young Malay professionals

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - A two-day Young Malay Professionals Congress (KPMM) will be held from Nov 20 at the Putra World Trade Centre, focusing on their role in the 21st century.

Entrepreneur Development Deputy Minister Datuk Idris Jusoh said today the congress was a follow-up to the Fourth Bumiputera Economic Congress held in September.

The KPMM congress is jointly organised by Mara and Ansara, an association of former students of Mara junior science colleges under the patronage of the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development.

The KPMM congress will end in the drafting of an action plan for young Malay professionals.

"This congress is designed to be more action oriented," Idris said at a Press conference.

He applauded the initiative taken by Ansara to hold the congress.

"The former students of MRSM will be joined by those from other residential schools throughout Malaysia and the local chapters of alumni associations of universities in the United States and Britain," he said.

The congress is expected to be attended by 1,200 young professionals under 40 years of age. Five workshops will be held.

The workshops are designed to give participants an opportunity to be involved directly in the problems and challenges in the fields of education and human resources, entrepreneurship, economy and finance, technology, religion, culture and social issues.

The working papers will be the basis for the congress' resolutions, to be presented to the National Economic Consultative Council II.

Among the panelists invited to the congress are veteran Umno politician Tan Sri Mohammad Ghazali Shafie, Bank Negara deputy governor Datuk Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Sapura Holdings Berhad president and chief executive Datuk Shahril Shamsuddin and Astora Jabat of Utusan Melayu (Malaysia) Berhad.

Ansara president Mukhriz Mahathir said the congress provided the professionals a chance to voice their opinions about the future of the country.

"Young Malay professionals are the direct beneficiaries of the New Economic Policy and they have a lot to say," he said. "However, they have not been given the avenue or forum to do so.

"They should be more aware of issues such as Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as it affects their future and their children's future," he added.

The purpose of the congress is to heighten awareness among young Malay professionals about the pattern and extension of the world based on ICT.

In addition to this, the congress provides a platform to expose the professionals to new industrial opportunities in the new millenium.

Those interested can obtain further information from KPMM's website at <http://www.kpmm.com> or contact the Ansara secretariat 03-4622264/4699561/4699562; or fax it at: 03-4669349. Participation fee is RM100.

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