

23 FEB 2001

Fong-ICT

SMALL COMPANIES ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER WITH HRDC

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- Small companies employing fewer than 50 people are encouraged to register with the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) to enable the employees to benefit from the Workers' Information and Communication Technology Training Scheme.

Human Resource Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn said today his ministry hoped such small companies would take the initiative to register so that their workers could attend the training and enhance their skills and productivity.

"It's optional but we hope more of these companies will register themselves," he told reporters after launching an ICT Training scheme for workers, organised by the HRDC here.

He said companies which had already registered could send their workers to any of the 351 ICT training programmes conducted by 24 training providers nationwide.

Fong said of the 7,000 companies which had registered with the HRDC, 4,500 were small and medium ones and all their workers were eligible for the training programme.

The training costs would be fully borne by the HRDC which had an initial allocation of RM5 million for the purpose.

Fong said the government was prepared to increase the allocation by another RM5 million if the response to the programme was good.

He said through the training, workers could enhance their computer literacy skills and knowledge in the field of technology in line with government efforts to produce more E-workers via various programmes such as the E-training scheme.

"Through E-training, workers can attend the programme during their spare time and when it suits their convenience without jeopardising their company operations as the scheme offers virtual training as well as direct interaction between the training provider and the worker," he said.

Fong said in implementing the E-training programme, the ministry had the cooperation of the Multimedia University.

"We can only hope that employers will encourage their workers to attend the training for if not their employees will be left behind in the area of skills and knowledge of technology and make it difficult for them to compete," he said.

The ministry organised the ICT assembly on Saturday at the Stadium Putra of the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil.

The assembly opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was aimed at enhancing ICT literacy awareness among Malaysians.

Fong said his ministry would intensify efforts to enhance awareness of the importance of ICT and a second such awareness campaign would be launched in Melaka Historic City on March 1.

Opening the training programme, Fong said that from 1993 till January last year, a total of 333,891 training places had been approved for computer related courses and monetary aid approved for the purpose totalled RM116 million.

He said during the period also RM15 million was approved for the purchase of computers to enable employers to train their workers in information technology and communication skills.

"I am confident that the strategy to equip workers with ICT skills on a comprehensive basis will form the nucleus in speeding up the process to

create more E-workers to face the future challenges of the K-Economy,"  
added Fong.

-- BERNAMA

ZAI AAM