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Small firms told to send workers for ICT training

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Small companies employing less than 50 workers have been urged to link up with the Human Resources Development Council to enable employees to take part in the Workers' Information Communication Technology Training Scheme (WITS).

Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn hoped small firms would take the initiative to register so that their staff could attend the training in ICT.

Of the 7,000 companies registered with the HRDC, 4,500 were small and medium ones with workers eligible to join the training programme.

Organised by HRDC, the ICT training costs will be fully borne by the council which has an initial allocation of RM5 million.

"Seeing that the fee is entirely funded by HRDC, employers should encourage their workers to participate in the training scheme to equip themselves with ICT skills," he said.

For companies already registered with HRDC, they could start sending their workers to any of the 24 training providers nationwide.

A total of 351 training programmes are being offered and more will be added later.

Fong said employees would be given the opportunity to choose courses they are interested in.

He said the Government was prepared to increase the allocation by another RM5 million should WITS meet with good response.

"With E-training, workers will be able to attend the programme during their spare time and when it suits their convenience without jeopardising their company operations.

"The scheme offers virtual training as well as direct interaction between the training provider and the worker," he added.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened an ICT assembly organised by the ministry last Saturday at the Stadium Putra in Bukit Jalil. It was aimed at enhancing ICT literacy awareness among Malaysians.

"We will continue to intensify efforts to enhance awareness of the importance of ICT with a second awareness campaign being launched in Malacca on March 1," said Fong.

From 1993 till January last year, a total of 333,891 training places had been approved for computer-related courses with RM116 million approved for the purpose.

During the same period, another RM15 million was approved for the purchase of computers for employee training.

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