

Terengganu to be animation hub by 2010

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KUALA TERENGGANU: Terengganu is looking to becoming an animation hub by 2010, with a road map that will take it there.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh announced yesterday the e-farm Terengganu skills development that would build its human resources in this field which was worth billions of ringgit worldwide.

He said there were three main programmes under skills development:

- » M2Farm@Terengganu, which is training to come up with computer software;
- » D3D@Terengganu, which is producing animation; and
- » SPIKE@Terengganu, which is webpage development or maintenance.

The state has allocated RM20 million for the e-farm Terengganu skills development, which may be increased according to need, he told reporters after launching the e-farm Terengganu ICT Skills Manpower Programme, here.

Present at the function were world-renowned animation expert Terry Thoren of *The Simpsons* fame and Shahril Ibrahim, a Malaysian who has achieved world standards in creative multimedia.

The e-farm programme features on-the-job training, hands-on based on industrial needs, is market-driven and awards an international professional certificate.

Idris said the launch of the e-farm programme was in accordance with the state's objective to make 2007 the Year of Science and Technology.

He said the state expected to train 4,600 youths annually from this year to create skilled manpower in ICT, particularly in that field.

"By 2010, we will be able to create 15,800 skilled manpower in ICT of world standard

in animation, multimedia programming, graphic design and other fields," he said.

He said this year, the state allocated RM140 million to implement various programmes and develop ICT in Terengganu.

Meanwhile, Thoren said with people and intent, Malaysia would have no problem following in the footsteps of India, Australia and New Zealand, which are new in the animation industry, to succeed.

He said the animation industry has a lot of potential as it could generate a more than US\$600 billion (RM2.2 billion) business. — Bernama