

**Dismal Response To Taiwan Vocational Study Programme - Chua
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ALOR SETAR, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- The Chinese community's dismal response to the MCA offer of vocational training in Taiwan stems from their misguided belief that such training is for failures.

Urging the Chinese not to look down on vocational training and regard it as not having a bright future when it was untrue, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek said they should instead, change their perception.

He said they should give serious attention to vocational training and take advantage of the opportunities available.

"To attract the Chinese to opt for vocational studies in Taiwan, the MCA has offered interest-free loans to those who are interested, to study at several selected universities in Taiwan," he added.

Dr Chua was speaking to reporters after opening the general meeting of the Federation of Teo Chew Association here today.

Earlier, the MCA signed a memorandum of understanding with six Taiwanese universities which offered free places to those pursuing vocational studies with them.

Dr Chua said, 300 places were offered at the universities annually for vocational studies under a programme which begins next month.

He said, with the exemption of fees, a student need only come up with between RM10,000 and RM15,000 annually, with loan facilities from MCA. Without the exemption, they would have to cough out between RM35,000 and RM40,000 a year.

Dr Chua said, those aged below 40, and keen to pursue courses such as child care, furniture design, telecommunications, computer repair and wedding management, were encouraged to apply for the loan.

"The programme is also open to other communities on condition that the applicants are well-versed in Mandarin," he added.

He said each of the courses offered is at the diploma stage, and each course is a for a two-year duration.

Meanwhile, the MCA president urged youths to be involved in numerous activities such as seminar and dialogue on the economic transformation programme to enable them to better understand the subject.

"Economic transformation is important because if it is successful, the people's income will increase, and as consumers, their purchasing power will also increase.

"So, all sectors in Malaysia will become more active and be able to act as catalyst to the national economy. This will create about three million job opportunities in 10 years," he said.

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