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MALAYSIA DRIVES ASEAN AGENDA TO BUILD FUTURE-READY TRAINING ECOSYSTEM THROUGH ASEAN TRAINING MARKET CONFERENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 July 2025 – Malaysia successfully hosted the ASEAN Training Market Conference (ATMC), attended by over 500 participants locally and international at Berjaya Time Square Hotel, here, today in a concerted push to strengthen the region’s training supply ecosystem under the ASEAN Year of Skills (AYOS) 2025.

Organised by the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) under the Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia (KESUMA), in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and supported by ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), the full-day flagship platform served as a high-level platform aims to enhance the quality and future-readiness of trainers, training providers and learning systems, recognising them as the backbone of ASEAN in talent development.

Held under the theme **“Empowering ASEAN’s Training Supply: Bridging Skills Gap, Innovation and Collaboration for a Future-Ready Economy,”** the conference brought together national and regional learning and training experts, as well as employers and business membership organisations.

Among the distinguished guests were YB Dato' Sri Abdul Rahman Mohamad, Deputy Minister of Human Resources Malaysia; Yang Berbahagia Datuk Abu Huraira Abu Yazid, Chairman of HRD Corp; Mr. Tuomo Poutiainen, Deputy Regional Director of the ILO and Dr. Rony Ambrose Gobilee, Chief Strategy Officer (Covering Chief Executive) of HRD Corp and Organising Chairman of AYOS 2025.

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Throughout seven (7) dynamic sessions featuring over 14 ASEAN and global speakers, delegates explored critical topics such as:

- The digital transformation of training delivery,
- Fostering public-private partnerships to strengthen talent pipelines,
- Advancing cross-border credentialing and mutual recognition frameworks, and
- Future-proofing ASEAN's workforce to thrive amid automation, the green transition, and rapid digitalisation.

The conference also demonstrated the urgency of modernising training content and delivery through technology and innovation, ensuring that learning remains inclusive, accessible and responsive to evolving industry needs.

A key outcome of ATMC was the reaffirmed commitment among ASEAN Member States (AMS) and stakeholders to deepen collaboration, share best practices and build scalable training models that can uplift the region. This includes expanding the use of digital platforms, AI-driven learning tools and hybrid delivery models to reach underserved communities and to support the workforce regionally.

In his remarks, YB Dato' Sri Abdul Rahman Mohamad emphasised that strengthening the training providers and trainers' ecosystem is crucial to securing ASEAN's future competitiveness.

"To transform our economies, we must first transform how we train our people. Malaysia is honoured to drive this agenda under our ASEAN Chairmanship, ensuring that our training systems are industry-relevant, inclusive and future-ready."

Meanwhile, Datuk Abu Huraira Abu Yazid in his speech highlighted that as Malaysia's leading agency for human capital development, HRD Corp remains committed to supporting Malaysia in working closely with the AMS.

"That is why ATMC is intentionally designed to be an interactive platform, to not only to share ideas, but to promote partnerships, pilot joint programmes and align efforts under a common skills development agenda across ASEAN."

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The ATMC is the third flagship platform under AYOS 2025, reinforcing ASEAN's shared ambition to build a skilled, flexible and resilient workforce capable of navigating the complexities of the modern training market.

For more information on the ASEAN Year of Skills 2025 and upcoming programmes, visit www.aseanyearofskills.org.

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About HRD Corp

Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp), formerly known as the Human Resources Development Council (MPSM), was established in 1993. It was later incorporated as Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB) through the enactment of the Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad Act 2001.

As an agency under the Ministry of Human Resources (KESUMA), HRD Corp is responsible for collecting levies from key industries and disbursing training grants through its internal mechanism which is the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) or Kumpulan Wang Pembangunan Sumber Manusia (KWPSM).

The rebranding of HRD Corp in 2021 reflects the organisation's renewed responsibilities, direction and mission. This includes expanding upskilling and reskilling efforts by employers to help employees achieve more sustainable productivity.

This transformation not only benefits all Malaysians but also empowers underserved communities through more inclusive income-generating opportunities.

It is aligned with HRD Corp's long-term ambition to drive the nation's aspiration of developing a highly skilled workforce.

For more information, visit the HRD Corp website at www.hrdcorp.gov.my