



## ASEAN TVET CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR DIGITAL AND GREEN SKILLS AMIDST REGIONAL TRANSFORMATION

**KUALA LUMPUR, 13 August 2025** – The ASEAN TVET Conference (ASEAN TVET), a flagship platform under the ASEAN Year of Skills (AYOS) 2025, opened today with a united call for the region to prepare its workforce for the challenges and opportunities of advanced digitalisation and the green transition, paving the way for a future-ready TVET ecosystem.

Jointly organised by the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) and Skills Development Fund Corporation Malaysia (Perbadanan Tabung Pembangunan Kemahiran – PTPK), both agencies under the Ministry of Human Resources, Malaysia (KESUMA), The conference brought together approximately 1,500 policymakers, industry leaders, TVET providers and educators at the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur to chart a future-ready skills agenda.

The ASEAN TVET set the stage for two days of high-level discussions and collaboration on advancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as a driver for inclusive digital and green transitions across ASEAN. In addition to its high-level conference sessions, the event also hosted an exhibition featuring 57 exhibitors, highlighting homegrown innovations, training solutions and technologies that support digital and green skills development.

Officiated by The Right Honourable **Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Minister of Rural and Regional Development of Malaysia and Chairman of the National TVET Council (MTVET)**, he sets out his vision for ASEAN to work collectively in building a workforce ready for the challenges of the future. He emphasised that collaboration should focus on addressing the rising demand for digital and green talent to ensure the region's skills agenda is anchored in real-world outcomes.

He emphasised that the ASEAN TVET must be more than a platform for discussion, calling for it to deliver concrete results that address market needs and drive meaningful change.

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“This conference must spark policies that meet market needs, open opportunities for all, make employers true partners and fast-track cutting-edge learning. This is how ASEAN will shape a workforce that is inclusive, future-ready and poised to lead the global TVET industry.”

“From this very gathering, we can establish a new regional movement - the ASEAN Green and Digital Skills Taskforce - uniting us in concrete actions, measurable targets and steadfast mutual support to cultivate the talent our region needs”, said Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid in his speech.

Meanwhile, The Honourable Steven Sim Chee Keong, Minister of Human Resources Malaysia, emphasised on the ASEAN's opportunity to lead in the digital and green economy through deeper collaboration and inclusive skills development.

He said, “In an age when AI can do the thinking, the world still needs those who can build, repair, operate, communicate, supervise and organise. These are human and social elements requiring skills, competence and trust. These elements will outlast the hype cycles of technology. In other words, skills training is the currency of the day.”

He added, “To fully realise the potential of ASEAN, we must move towards a long overdue higher synergy in a common certification framework. If skills are the currency of IR 4.0, then in order for greater advancement of the ASEAN skills market, we must work hard towards mutual recognition.”

Joining the conference virtually, His Excellency Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN, highlighted the need to advance green skills development to ensure the region remains competitive in the global economy.

He said, “Our efforts to build green skills must accelerate through stronger partnerships between training institutions and industry, especially as we seek to lead, not just follow, in the global green economy.”

“Across ASEAN, rapid technological change and evolving labour market demands are intensifying skills shortages, especially in digital and environmental competencies. Without decisive action, these gaps risk slowing the region's economic progress,” he concluded.

Centred on the theme **‘Advancing Digital and Green Transformations through an Inclusive and Future-Ready TVET System,’** the conference addressed the need to modernise training, enhance skills mobility and ensure inclusive access for women, youth, persons with disabilities and underserved communities.

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The event also featured discussions on “Greening ASEAN TVET,” exploring pathways to integrate sustainability into skills development while ensuring a just transition for all workers.

Representing the International Labour Organization (ILO), Kaori Nakamura-Osaka, Assistant Director General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, said that TVET has unique potential in the digital and green transformation.

She said in her speech, “TVET holds a unique potential to become a driver of the digital and green transformation. To do so, skills training needs to be aligned to support these transformations. Emerging technologies and innovation must also be embedded into learning and the delivery of training. No one can be left behind when it comes to accessing new training opportunities.”

“ILO is proud to work alongside ASEAN and its Member States in promoting skills policies that are inclusive, future-oriented and firmly grounded in decent work,” she added.

Among the distinguished guests present at the ASEAN TVET's officiating ceremony were **Datuk Azman bin Mohd Yusoff**, Secretary-General of KESUMA; **Dr. Syed Alwi bin Mohamed Sultan**, Chief Executive of HRD Corp; **Mohd Fathullah bin Mustafa**, Chief Executive of PTPK and **Dr. Rony Ambrose Gobilee**, Chief Strategy Officer of HRD Corp and Organising Chairman of AYOS 2025.

The ASEAN TVET is the fourth flagship platform under AYOS 2025, held in conjunction with Malaysia as the Chair of ASEAN Chairmanship 2025. Through the upcoming flagship platforms of AYOS 2025 which include the National Human Capital Conference & Exhibition (NHCCE), Global Skills Forum (GSF) and the ASEAN Forum of Manpower Ministers for Human Capital Development (AFMM-HCD), Malaysia will continue to drive this human development agenda aims to promote bold collaborations, strengthen industry engagement and embed environmental sustainability into skills systems.

For more information on the AYOS 2025 and upcoming flagship platforms, visit [www.aseanyearofskills.org](http://www.aseanyearofskills.org).

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**About HRD Corp**

Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) is Malaysia's leading government agency for human capital development under the Ministry of Human Resources (KESUMA).

Governed by the Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB) Act 2001, HRD Corp is responsible for the collection and administration of the human resources development levy through the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF), to promote the training, retraining and skills upgrading of employees, apprentices and trainees, aligning their capabilities with employers' business needs and the nation's aspiration of developing a highly-skilled workforce. This ensures Malaysia's workforce remains competitive and adaptable to the demands of both current and future economies.

HRD Corp also plays a pivotal role in strengthening Malaysia's training market, championing innovation, quality and inclusive access to skills development nationwide.

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### **About PTPK**

The Skills Development Fund Corporation (PTPK), a federal statutory body under the Ministry of Human Resource, was established under the Skills Development Fund Act 2004 (Act 640) and came into force on 1 June 2006.

The policy and direction of PTPK is set by the Board of Directors, the membership of which comprises those from the public and private sector who have skills and experience from various backgrounds as well as representatives of skills training providers.

### **Main Function**

1. To identify and approve skills training programmes which qualify for skills training loans;
2. To make available skills training loans and financial aid aside from training loans to trainees and to provide services in administering, overseeing and collecting of loan repayments; and
3. To perform any other functions assigned to the Corporation by any other written law.

For more information, visit the PTPK website at [www.ptpk.gov.my](http://www.ptpk.gov.my)