



HRD CORP HOSTED UK MINISTER IN STRENGTHENING MALAYSIA–UK COLLABORATION IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 August 2025 – The Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) welcomed The Right Honourable Baroness Smith of Malvern, Minister of State (Minister for Skills) and Minister of State (Minister for Women and Equalities) of the Department for Education, United Kingdom (UK), for a courtesy visit to its headquarters in Bukit Damansara on 31 July 2025. The visit was part of her official working trip to Malaysia.

The Right Honourable Baroness was accompanied by His Excellency Ajay Sharma, British High Commissioner to Malaysia. They were received by YB Dr. Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen, Political Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources, Malaysia; Datuk Abu Huraira bin Abu Yazid, Chairman of HRD Corp and Dr. Syed Alwi bin Mohamed Sultan, Chief Executive of HRD Corp

The meeting served as a platform to gain insights into Malaysia's initiatives in skills training, workforce and talent development, to share the UK's latest advancements in these areas and to explore potential avenues for collaboration.

It also highlighted the Ministry of Human Resources (KESUMA), Malaysia, through HRD Corp as its agency, is organising the ASEAN Year of Skills (AYOS) 2025, a year-long initiative held in conjunction with Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship.

Datuk Abu Huraira bin Abu Yazid emphasised the significance of the engagement, "The visit not only strengthens bilateral ties but also reinforces our broader goal of promoting meaningful international collaboration under Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship."

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He added, "Through AYOS 2025, HRD Corp is coordinating seven (7) flagship platforms focused on high-level skills development, including the upcoming Global Skills Forum (GSF) in October, which we are co-organising with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and supported by the ASEAN Secretariat. GSF presents exciting opportunities to advance the global conversation on skills transformation and we look forward to working with international partners, including the UK, to make a real impact."

Dr. Syed Alwi bin Mohamed Sultan elaborated, "This meeting reflects the shared aspiration of both Malaysia and the UK to build a resilient, dynamic and future-ready workforce. It also demonstrates our commitment to promoting stronger partnerships between our two nations in education, talent development and innovation, all of which are critical to thriving in an increasingly competitive and rapidly evolving global economy."

KESUMA was also represented by Raja Nizam bin Raja Kamarulbahrain, Undersecretary of the International Division, while members of HRD Corp's Senior Leadership Team were in attendance to support the engagement.

Baroness Smith was joined by a delegation comprising Dr. Faye Taylor, Deputy Director of Strategy, Department for Education, UK; Hannah Deighan, Private Secretary to Baroness Smith; Izza Ismail, Education and Skills Regional Advisor, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, British High Commission Kuala Lumpur; Min Mahayuddin, Senior Trade Manager, British High Commission Kuala Lumpur and Prabha Sundram, British Council Malaysia.

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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.

For media enquiries, please contact: