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## **HRD CORP MALAYSIA PARTNERS WITH INDMO TIMOR-LESTE TO PIONEER NATIONAL TRAINING INDEX AND ADVANCE ASEAN SKILLS AGENDA**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 1 October 2025** – Malaysia, through the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp), an agency under its Ministry of Human Resources (KESUMA), formalised a partnership with Timor-Leste's National Institute for Workforce Development (INDMO) to develop the nation's first National Training Index (NTI), a strategic tool for evidence-based workforce planning and inclusive economic growth.

The collaboration was cemented through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed during the 2nd Timor-Leste International Skills Week at the Dili Convention Centre from 15 to 19 September 2025, officiated by the Vice Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Mr. Francisco Kalbuadi Lay.

The NTI, pioneered by HRD Corp in Malaysia, is a comprehensive mechanism that measures national training activities, identifies skills gaps and provides actionable policy recommendations to strengthen workforce readiness. Its adaptation for Timor-Leste marks a historic milestone in regional knowledge transfer and sets a benchmark for future ASEAN cooperation.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Rony Ambrose Gobilee, Chief Strategy Officer of HRD Corp, highlighted Malaysia's experience in building inclusive and sustainable Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ecosystems, stressing the critical role of innovation, data and lifelong learning.

"Malaysia's journey has shown us that inclusive skills development is the foundation for national growth. By sharing our expertise with Timor-Leste, we are not just strengthening bilateral ties but also reinforcing ASEAN's shared vision of a future-ready workforce," said Dr. Rony.

Under the MoU, HRD Corp and INDMO will establish co-branding as long-term partners in skills transformation, facilitate research collaboration, explore the implementation of a training levy system and exchange training programmes, educational content and professional expertise through a mutual training marketplace.

This partnership also supports ASEAN's Year of Skills 2025 (AYOS) and positions Timor-Leste strongly ahead of its hosting of the 10th WorldSkills Asia General Assembly in 2026.

"Timor-Leste is making bold moves in workforce transformation. Malaysia, through HRD Corp is proud to support this journey, helping to build a competitive, inclusive and globally connected workforce that will benefit not only Timor-Leste but also the ASEAN region and the world," Dr. Rony added.

This collaboration, which leverages Malaysia's expertise and experience in workforce development, represents a crucial step in building a competitive, inclusive and future-ready workforce in Timor-Leste. Aligned with AYOS, the partnership bridges talent across the region and sets a benchmark for skills transformation, reinforcing ASEAN's shared vision of a highly skilled, mobile and globally connected workforce.

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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.

For more information, please visit [www.hrdcorp.gov.my](http://www.hrdcorp.gov.my).