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Govt, industries collaborate to boost TVET and human capital



THE government has formed a new body called the Government-Industry TVET Coordination Body (GITC), which will spearhead the development of the country's human capital.

The GITC will serve as a platform for strategic collaboration between ministries and industries to achieve the National Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Agenda, including skills development, manpower requirements and the development of TVET institutions.

Prime Minister (PM) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said after his address at a recent National TVET Council (MTVET) meeting by teleconference — which was also attended by 13 ministers, industry figures, including from the Federation of Malaysian

Manufacturers (FMM), academics and student representatives — that the GITC would be the first of its kind in the world.

“The MTVET meeting this time has made history by recommending the establishment of the GITC.

“For the first time, the industry-led body will be directly involved in the development of the country’s TVET human capital, particularly in relation to skills and manpower requirements,” he said.

GITC’s membership consists of 12 associations based on industry sectors that have agreed to work together to achieve the National TVET Agenda.

The PM added that participants of the meeting also agreed on the implementation of the TVET Collaboration Hub, involving 11 ministries and coordinated by the Ministry of Higher Education.

This initiative will be a platform for strategic collaboration of expertise, equipment and technology between centres of excellence and TVET institutions, as well as regional economic and industrial authorities.

A total of 12 hubs have been identified, including automotive, semiconductor, marine, air conditioning, aerospace, robotics, rail, telecommunications, hospitality, tourism and food technology to be implemented in the peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak.

They also agreed in principle to the proposed single TVET rating, but a process of engagement with ministries and industry needs to be implemented before it is tabled again at the next MTVET meeting.



According to Ismail Sabri (left), for the first time, the industry-led body will be directly involved in the development of the country’s TVET human capital

“This initiative is expected to strengthen the symbiosis of the TVET ecosystem by connecting the parties involved and bridging the gap between labour demand and supply.

“The efforts undertaken by MTVET are very significant to realising the strategies and initiatives formulated under the 12th Malaysia Plan,” Ismail Sabri said.

Under Budget 2022, the government allocated RM6.6 billion to empower TVET through various initiatives to be implemented by relevant ministries and agencies.

These initiatives will provide graduates who meet the needs of the industry, improve the quality of TVET institutions, strengthen the offering of industry-oriented programmes and intensify active industry involvement.

The PM said it is time for TVET to be the main choice of youths in preparing themselves for the future as it has proven to be able to produce skilled, trained and entrepreneurial individuals.

He also stated that the Education Ministry has been asked to provide an initial exposure of the TVET education system to Form One students, so that they can make choices that suit their inclinations.

To date, there are 1,295 public and private TVET providers across 11 ministries, including 22 state government TVET institutions across Malaysia, which provide certificate and diploma level studies.

Ismail Sabri added that the government now recognises the Malaysian Vocational Diploma as a route to a network of public technical universities in Malaysia, namely Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia and Universiti Malaysia Pahang.

“These elements are able to make a young person more independent and able to adapt to a challenging career environment.

“Recognising the importance of TVET, the meeting agreed that campaigns, promotions and rebranding be done comprehensively to dispel the perception that TVET is a second-class education and is no longer relevant.

“Through these campaigns and promotions, we hope that TVET will be made an option equivalent to academics, thus making it a career of choice like in other developed countries,” he concluded.