

# RM60m training contracts

## Government engages 9 groups to make graduates more marketable

By **TEE LIN SAY**  
linsay@thestar.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** Nine human resource and education providers have been awarded contracts worth a total of RM60mil for the "Accelerated Skills Enhancement Training" programme from the Human Resource Ministry.

The companies are Asia E-Learning Sdn Bhd, Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT) Sdn Bhd, Berjaya Higher Education Sdn Bhd, Cosmopoint Sdn Bhd & consortium, Destini Prima Sdn Bhd & consortium, HELP University College Sdn Bhd, SEGi University College & consortium, SMR HR Group Sdn Bhd & consortium and Sunway International Business & Management Sdn Bhd.

The purpose of the programme is to train unemployed graduates by making them more marketable, to upscale the existing pool of employees and to prepare the graduates with skills that are internationally certified.

The graduates will be trained in the areas related to the sectors of economic growth such as tourism,



hospitality, information technology, logistics, finance and accounting, project management, safety and security, and human capital.

"A high level of knowledge in the critical sectors is very important if we are to achieve the high skills and knowledge-based economy where everyone gets better salaries and we

are no longer a labour-intensive dependent economy," Human Resource Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said in a phone interview.

He said such training programmes were a continuous process by the Government, and was part of the many programmes that the

Government was undertaking to ensure the workforce was not just skilled, but up to international standards.

"By making the transition to an economy that is more knowledgeable, we are reducing the need for foreign workers," said Subramaniam.

He added that one reason for the high unemployment level among graduates was partially due to the curriculum of universities that was very generic. However, this was now also changing, with the Government incorporating better internship programmes and practical courses within the universities to enable graduates to meet employers' expectations.

Presently, there are some 71,000 unemployed graduates, and the number remains persistently high despite the Government's efforts to provide them with training.

Government statistics showed that the number of jobless graduates had risen even though overall unemployment had dropped. Almost one in five of the 388,000 unemployed Malaysians hold a degree or diploma.

**Subramaniam:**  
"By making the transition to an economy that is more knowledgeable, we are reducing the need for foreign workers."