

Revamp education system to boost technical workforce

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Combining STEM and TVET learning approaches will produce a skilled workforce. - NSTP file pic

LETTERS: Under Madani Malaysia, the educational system is challenged to transform the curriculum to an upskilled blending of technical vocational education training (TVET) and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

This is to prepare a cutting-edge, innovative workforce that is needed for a nation to thrive in a post-Covid-19 world economy.

Such a move is needed at all educational levels. The expected outcome at the basic level is for students to acquire knowledge, higher-order thinking skills, bilingual proficiency, leadership and team-building skills, ethics, and to develop a spiritual and national identity. All of these will mould the characters of potential youth leaders for Malaysia's diverse, multicultural society.

Therefore, blending TVET and STEM will produce forward-thinking, highly skilled workers at the certificate, diploma and university levels.

Universities must establish collaborations with industries and multinational corporations to provide the latest in training enrichment.

Research and development, innovation, and industry-based learning approaches will enable and strengthen direct links between institutions of higher learning and industry needs.

Students skilled in high-impact technology are well prepared to compete successfully since globally, skill requirements and job qualifications are on the rise.

In many forward-thinking countries, policymakers are enacting legislation that provides incentives and/or contractual agreements with companies that guarantee to provide upskilling training to their employees at all levels.

In policy reviews and data collected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, another benefit of such training is that it promotes social equity and inclusion, resulting in a stronger, more resilient labour force.

We should encourage such links between universities and industry, which create opportunities for research and development and innovation collaboration, business and technical expertise and consultation for business solutions, as well as new business and investment ventures. They will provide a significant boost to Malaysia's workforce and the economy.

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