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HRD CORP EMPOWERS PWD TALENT THROUGH NATIONAL TRAINING WEEK 2025

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 June 2025 – In a bold move to advance the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWD) in the workforce, the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) hosted the regional forum, **ASEAN: Empowering Persons with Disabilities, Elevating the Workforce**, at Berjaya Times Square, here.

The forum brought together policymakers, industry leaders and disability advocates to champion inclusive employment practices and promote equitable access to job opportunities.

Organised in conjunction with National Training Week (NTW) 2025, the event highlighted the importance of inclusive workforce development as a core pillar in shaping a future-ready and diverse talent ecosystem.

The event was graced by Datuk Wira Shahul Dawood, ASEAN Year of Skills (AYOS) 2025 Advisor; and also attended by Encik Soffian Amin, Chief Programmes Officer of HRD Corp and Chairman of NTW 2025 and Encik Hafez Kamaruddin, Head of Regional Operations of HRD Corp.

A key highlight of the forum was a panel session featuring four (4) distinguished disability advocates and professionals who shared both their expertise and experiences:

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- **Dato' Satinah Syed Saleh**, Adjunct Professor, University of Cyberjaya and Managing Director, Alpha Al Sagoff Edu Resources.
- **Dr. Ruzita Mohd Amin**, Head, Disability Services Unit & Professor of Economics, International Islamic University Malaysia.
- **Senator (R) Datuk Dr. Ras Adiba Radzi**, Founder & President, OKU Sentral
- **Nori Abdullah**, Chairperson, Yayasan Budi Penyayang Malaysia and Founding Partner of KitaKita.

Each panelist emphasised the need for a multi-sectoral approach to inclusion, recognising that diversity is not only a moral imperative but an economic advantage.

In addition to the main forum, participants engaged in a series of pocket talks covering diverse themes to promote inclusive work environments, that offered focused insights into key areas supporting PWD inclusion.

These included sessions on the OKU Entrepreneurship Programme, PERKESO's initiatives for PWD, Neurodiversity at Work: Insights and Learnings and a unique session titled Dialogue in the Dark led by Mr. Steven Chan, Founder of DIA Academy. Another inspiring speaker was Madam Anis Adillah, who shared her personal journey in the talk *RnR Diri*, highlighting resilience and self-empowerment.

Further strengthening the impact of the event, HRD Corp, in collaboration with PERKESO and MyFutureJobs, hosted a dedicated job exhibition and walk-in interview sessions for PWD jobseekers by participating companies included AEON Co. (M) Berhad, Bila-Bila Mart, Always Sdn. Bhd., Marriott Hotel and Genashtim Sdn Bhd, demonstrating industry commitment towards inclusive hiring.

This forum was part of a dedicated PWD Track under NTW 2025, which features inclusive training opportunities and awareness-building programmes tailored for employers and the public.

By amplifying the voices of PWD champions and experts, HRD Corp aims to shift perspectives and build the community that embraces equal participation and inclusive growth of the workforce.

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Aligned with the AYOS 2025 as its second flagship event, NTW 2025 is extending its reach by opening the NTW portal to ASEAN countries, encouraging lifelong learning and sharing regional best practices in talent development, where all courses are being offered for free to not only Malaysians but all ASEAN citizens in line with its theme 'Learning Beyond Borders'.

While the week-long campaign promoting lifelong learning concluded on 21 June 2025, Malaysians and the whole ASEAN community can access the free courses on the NTW portal throughout the entire year.

For more information and to access the wide array of free courses, please visit the **NTW** portal at <https://www.nationaltrainingweek.gov.my/> and find out more about **AYOS 2025** and all other flagship platforms through its official portal at <https://aseanyearofskills.org/>.

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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