



ASEAN YEAR OF SKILLS (AYOS) 2025 KICKS OFF

A year-long effort to strengthen human capital development effort across the region.

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 April 2025 - Secretary-General of Ministry of Human Resources (KESUMA) Datuk Azman Mohd Yusoff today launched the ASEAN Year of Skills (AYOS) 2025, a year-long human capital development initiative under Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship.

Spearheaded by KESUMA through Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp), **AYOS 2025** marks ASEAN country members' collective effort to empower ASEAN talents and workforce through skills development and lifelong learning across the region for individuals from all backgrounds.

The initiative aims to enhance workforce skills and regional talent development through collaboration among ASEAN member states. It focuses on improving labour mobility, addressing regional disparities and preparing youth for future work opportunities.

The launch event, held at the Connexion Conference & Event Centre (Nexus) Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, was also witnessed by Datuk Abu Huraira Abu Yazid, Chairman of the Board of Directors of HRD Corp and Datuk Wira Shahul Dawood, the Chief Executive of HRD Corp.

Datuk Azman Mohd Yusoff mentioned in his officiating speech that AYOS 2025 is a call to action for governments, industries, institutions and communities to unite in building a future-ready ASEAN workforce.

"It is built on five key objectives: bridging existing skills gaps across member states; promoting talent mobility to facilitate workforce agility; ensuring inclusive growth that uplifts every community; strengthening regional collaboration for shared prosperity and enhancing public-private partnerships to future-proof our workforce," he said.

"The ASEAN Year of Skills 2025 is anchored on three key aspirations: Empower our workforce with future-ready capabilities, equip our youth with career

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resilience and enable our industries to stay competitive and innovative," he further added.

Meanwhile, Datuk Wira Shahul Dawood, highlighted that AYOS 2025 reflects Malaysia's proactive stance, which highlights the national recognition of human capital development as a cornerstone for regional advancement.

"We gather today not only to commemorate a regional declaration but to mark the beginning of a collaborative journey toward building a future-ready, highly skilled ASEAN workforce", he said.

He concluded, "AYOS is about preparing our people for the future of work - whether that means adapting to new technologies, embracing lifelong learning or building stronger human capital ecosystems across ASEAN."

Also present at the event were representatives from ASEAN Member States, International Labour Organization (ILO), appointed National Coordinators and ambassadors and representatives from the industries.

Themed Bridging Talent, Building ASEAN, **AYOS 2025** will feature seven flagship events, namely:

1. ASEAN Human Capital Development Investment Symposium (AHCDIS)
2. National Training Week (NTW)
3. ASEAN Training Market Conference (ATMC)
4. ASEAN TVET Conference
5. ASEAN Forum of Manpower Minister for Human Capital Development (AFMM-HCD)
6. National Human Capital Conference Exhibition (NHCCE) 2025
7. Global Skills Forum (GSF)

Find out more about AYOS 2025 through its official portal at <https://aseanyearofskills.org/>

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About Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp):

Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) was established in 1993 as the Human Resources Development Council. It was incorporated into Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad through the enactment of the Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad Act 2001.

As an agency under the Ministry of Human Resources, it is responsible for collecting levy from key industries and disbursing training grants to registered employers through its internal mechanisms known as the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF).

In April 2021, HRDF became HRD Corp. The name change reflects its new responsibilities, directions and mission. These include expanding its workforce, upskilling and reskilling efforts to all Malaysian employers and individuals, and providing income-generating opportunities to all communities in need. This transformation is in line with HRD Corp's ambition of driving Malaysia's talent development aspirations for the long term.

For more information, visit the HRD Corp website – www.hrdcorp.gov.my.