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Acquire business skills, youths told



Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports Permanent Secretary Dato Paduka Hj Mohd Hamid Hj Mohd Jaafar presenting a certificate to a student at Youth Development Centre. Picture: BT/Rachel Thien

Rachel Thien

BRUNEI-MUARA

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YOUTHS were urged to explore and acquire skills in the entrepreneurship sector to generate revenues for the Sultanate and curb unemployment rates at the same time.

The permanent secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports yesterday said that youths take advantage of business facilities in the country to accelerate entrepreneurship activities.

During a certificate presentation for 140 students who completed an 18-month course at the Youth Development Centre for the 2008-2009 session, Dato Paduka Hj Mohd Hamid Hj Mohd Jaafar highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship to the development of the national economy.

"In this light, Brunei has always given attention to it and encourages its population, especially youths to labour in this entrepreneurial field," he said, adding that infrastructure provision and facilities lead to entrepreneurial development of the country.

"A fruitful growing economy from entrepreneurial activity will provide job opportunities, reduce unemployment rates and reduce social problems, by increasing the standard of living and providing a comfortable and prosperity country," he added.

He advised graduates to fully utilise skills (acquired) and not waste it.

Dato Paduka Hj Mohd Hamid added that youths should not only be committed, but creative and innovative in identifying the types of business they want to participate.

"Apart from that, youths also need to be equipped with necessary knowledge before venturing into the entrepreneurial field," he said.

Head of Youth Development Centre Hjh Fatimah Pehin Penyurat Hj Mohd Salleh said entrepreneurship can be one of the subjects at the Youth Development Centre for participants to help them generate

income for Brunei.

Efforts to increase knowledge for participants at the Youth Development Centre in entrepreneurship, were various programmes such as the Entrepreneurship course in a Self Development programme, which has been introduced to allow participants do business proposals and increase basic knowledge in entrepreneurship.

Hjh Fatimah added the programme seeks to give exposure and experience to participants related to business, and every year, the Youth Development Centre organises an "Entrepreneurship Week Project" for participants to apply the knowledge that they have learned.

Student Siti Diyana Hj Razali, 22, who completed the 18-month course at the centre said it is important to adopt skills to be independent in the future.

She added she hoped to work in air-conditioning companies soon. "Over here, we learned a lot of different skills, such as welding and fixing air-cons and fridges. So if my air-con is not working at home, I will be able to fix it on my own."

Another student, Muhd Faiz Metali, said he was thinking about pursuing higher studies abroad.

"I want to go to England and learn more about welding. This type of independent experience is important to gain," he said.

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