

Two-day TVET International Conference begins

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THE two-day TVET (Technical Vocational Education and Training) International Conference 2016 officially kicked off with an opening ceremony at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas yesterday.

The conference has brought together more than 200 participants from around the world, providing them the opportunity to share recent findings and innovations, best practices and policies relevant to vocational and technical education.

Yesterday's opening ceremony saw the attendance of the Deputy Minister of Education, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar attending as the personal representative of the guest of honour, Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education.

Welcoming remarks were delivered at the ceremony by Haji Mohd Sharifuddin bin Mohd Salleh, the Director of SEAMEO Voctech, who said, "the conference is organised as one of the highlights in commemorating SEAMEO's 50th anniversary and SEAMEO Voctech's 25th anniversary celebrations at the international level."

Haji Mohd Sharifuddin explained the theme was selected, "because of its relevance to the current and foreseeing situations, and is also in line with SEAMEO Voctech's current Fifth Five-Year Development Plan." The event is hosted by SEAMEO Voctech, the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) and the Regional Cooperation Programme to

Improve the Training of TVET Personnel (RECOTVET) commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. In addition, the conference is supported by other international platforms influential to the development of TVET, including UNESCO-UNEVOC, SEAMEO Secretariat, Colombo Plan Staff College and the Korean Research Institute of Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET).

Another to speak at the opening ceremony was the Director and CEO of IBTE, Dr Chin Wei Keh.

"The significance of TVET as an engine of economic growth is undeniable," he said. "The availability of a skilled labour force produced by an effective TVET system allows economies to progress in technology, productivity and makes it globally competitive. Countries around the world are reforming their TVET systems and Brunei Darussalam is no exception."

Yesterday saw the conference begin with a plenary session that featured two presentations, the first of which was delivered by Prof Dr Georg Spottl from Germany.

His presentation was titled 'Sustainability and Competence through TVET in the Age of Industry 4.0' in which he spoke about striking a balance between technology and human involvement in industrial processes.

The second presentation was delivered by Dr Law Song Seng from Singapore, who spoke on the topic, 'Transforming TVET: Policies and Challenges', in which he spoke about effective policies for dealing with various TVET challenges, providing



The conference in progress

examples by referring to Singapore's experience.

The two speakers were then each presented a token of appreciation by the guest of honour. Following the opening ceremony, more plenary sessions took

place, as well as a number of concurrent sessions throughout the day dealing with various topics pertinent to TVET.

More plenary and concurrent panel sessions will be taking place as the two-day conference goes into its second day today.

Borneo Bulletin, 2 June 2016, p. 6

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