‘Work together to address wave of Industry 4.0’

Lyna Mohamad

Participants of the 5th High Officials Meeting (HOM) of Southeast Asia – Technical and Vocational Education and Training (SEA-TVET) were hosted to a welcoming dinner at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club in Jerudong yesterday.

The participants comprise leaders of vocational education of Southeast Asia, regional representatives from Southeast Asia Ministers Education Organisation (SEAMEO) and Director of SEAMEO Secretariat representing Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education Dr Haji Azman bin Ahmad was the guest of honour.

IBTE Acting Director/CEO and Director of SEAMEO Vocotech Dr Haji Mohd Zamri bin Haji Sabli in a welcoming remark noted that with a fast-changing global economy, TVET systems are constantly repositioning themselves to prepare for the future.

"An important way to foster global excellence in TVET is to bring together the best minds and institutions to engage in collaborative discussions and networking. The 5th HOM SEA-TVET aims to achieve this," he added.

Themed ‘Strengthening Efforts Towards TVET 4.0’ the meeting reflects the enduring importance of TVET as the foundation for sustainable growth, he added and stressed that TVET is a key pillar in education and training systems changes.

"It is vital for the development of a professionally skilled workforce critical for economic, human and social progress especially in the era of Industry 4.0."

The guest of honour said, "It is encouraging to know that SEAMEO places great importance on TVET as it is reflected as one of the seven SEAMEO Priority Areas."

He highlighted the needs to work together to address the wave of the 4th Industrial Revolution in education and its demands and challenges. Dr Haji Azman also raised the issues of technology usage in teaching, its impact in both teaching and learning as well as the urgent need to equipped students with skills needed to face Industry 4.0.

"It is imperative that we focus our efforts so that our current and future TVET curriculum complements the needs of the 4th Industrial Revolution. The challenge is that we must align TVET to the needs of the 4th Industrial Revolution in such a way that the job market remains stable," he said.

Officers from member state countries and allied members from Japan, Korea, Germany, Great Britain, China, the United States and organisation such as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and International Labour Organization were also present.