Degree-level skills courses soon, says Subramaniam

SHAH ALAM: Several universities have been identified to offer degree-level technical courses to students who have completed skills courses.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Dr. S. Subramaniam said skills courses offered in government institutions were currently up to diploma level.

"The country needs more skilled workers. Jobs like underwater welding will be in great demand in a few years' time."

"My ministry together with the Higher Education Ministry has come up with degree programmes for skills courses so that when they (students) graduate, they will be experts," he told reporters after handing out 1Malaysia book assistance vouchers to 11 human resources training institutes at the Advanced Technology Training Centre yesterday.

Dr. Subramaniam added that there was no need to create new universities just to serve this purpose.

"The universities that we have identified so far are Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn," he said.

 Asked when intake would begin, Dr. Subramaniam said the move was currently in the planning stages and would kick off once everything was finalised.

On another matter, the minister advised school-leavers to choose wisely on their further education courses as a wrong choice might result in unemployment.

"Many have come to see me saying that they completed programmes like nursing but could not get jobs."

"This is a big issue. Individuals should look at studies and job opportunities," he said.