

Headline	Over 35,000 have benefited from Halal Training Programme		
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Over 35,000 have benefited from Halal Training Programme

BY ABANG SALFIAN NAWAWI

KUCHING: The Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC) which was established five years ago has so far successfully trained more than 35,000 participants through 482 talks under the Halal Training Programme.

This was disclosed by Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Jacob Dungau Sagan in his welcoming speech at the Sarawak Halal Transformation Programme 2011 which was officiated by Chief Minister Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud at the Kuching Waterfront here yesterday.

"Of the total, 1,157 of the participants are from overseas including Australia, Turkey, China, Japan, Kuwait, Pakistan and ASEAN member countries.

"In addition, through the Program 'Halal Champions', HDC is currently actively developing local companies to become more competitive in the international markets, especially in the United States (USA), Kazakhstan and China.

"Focus is given to these companies in securing international standards such as Hazard and Critical Control Point (HACPP) and Good Manufacturing Practice so that they can produce high quality products," he pointed out.

Jacob who is also Member of Parliament for Baram explained that the programme was the third, similar to the two held in Gambang, Pahang and Jeli, Kelantan to promote and market local halal products.

"Local companies also need to enhance their efforts in Research and Development (R&D) to produce vaccine ingredients and Halal gelatine," he said.

Meanwhile, the three-day programme themed "Waves of Sharing Opportunities" held in collaboration with the State Government, *Jabatan Agama Islam* (JAIS) and *Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak* is being held since Friday at the Kuching Waterfront and Sarawak Tourism Complex.

A forum held on Friday night was another highlight of the programme which featured two speakers namely Ustaz Haji Azmi Haji Shaari and Ustaz Haji Ibrahim Haji Nail of JAKIM Sarawak.

HDC's goal is to enhance community knowledge of Halal products as well as to provide opportunities in the Halal business to Halal SMEs in Sarawak to link with MNCs, potential domestic investors and introduce non-traditional Halal sectors to be accepted by the masses especially Halal body and skin care products, cosmetics and health

supplements.

A seminar on Halal products was also held to raise awareness and understanding of Halal products among local entrepreneurs, Halal standards, Halal issues in respect of the use and cleanliness as well as funding and business opportunities in the Halal industry.

The seminar was organised in collaboration with *Jabatan Standard Malaysia*, the *Entrepreneurs Development Unit* of the Chief Minister's Department, Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operative and Consumerism, *Jabatan Agama Islam Sarawak* (JAIS), *Dewan Perniagaan Islam Malaysia* and *Persatuan Institusi Perbankan Islam Malaysia*.

Another attraction for students and job-seekers was a seminar on "*Pengenalan Halal Job (HALJOB)*" held at the Sarawak Tourism Complex. It was aimed at exposing students and new graduates to the various employment prospects in the Halal Industry.

The seminar was presented by HDC in collaboration with *Universiti Sains Islam*, *Global Integrity Products & Services*, *Jabatan Agama Islam Sarawak* and the Chief Minister's Department.

More than 300 youths took part in the seminar.