



About 80,000 people are expected to visit the two-day education fair which ends today. — NST picture by Amran Hamid

'Give seniors a chance to further education'

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KUALA LUMPUR: An academic has urged the government to invest in educating retirees and senior citizens for jobs in the public sector.

Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris Pro Chancellor Tan Sri Dr Yahaya Ibrahim said the talents of experienced hands were going to waste as education platforms were extremely limited to the elderly.

"There are many able-minded retirees who can contribute enormously to the nation but are just idling at home. The focus is, however, still on the young and the elderly are neglected."

"Most higher learning institutions neither offer nor promote courses to the group," Yahaya said at the launch of the Facon Education Fair at Putra World Trade Centre here yesterday.

He said the government

must pick up where higher learning institutions had failed by giving a chance to senior citizens to extend their horizons.

Yahaya, who is also the organising chairman of the exhibition, said the government could offer civil servants who were about to retire scholarships, flexi hours, an extension of their tenure or even an appropriate redesignation. It also could re-hire retirees for advisory or training positions.

"If detractors argue that it is expensive to train old hens, then why do we have to spend so much money in training and re-training teachers without experience?" he queried.

Yahaya said about 80,000 people are expected to visit the fair which ends today.

Four foreign government-funded groups of institutions will be explaining education options in Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands and China.

Among the 600 participants

are local institutions such as Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology, HELP University College, Taylor's University College, SEGi University College, UCSI University,

KDU College, INTI University College, KBU International College, Nilai University College, Universiti Malaysia, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman and Flamingo Institute.

They offer courses including information technology, business, law, medicine, mass communications, engineering and accounting.

The National Higher Education Fund Corporation and Public Service Department have also set up a booth to advise students about educational loans and scholarships available.

There will be talks on educational opportunities and ca-

reers. The two-day fair which started yesterday at the PWTC and Sarawak's Grand Palace Hotel, Miri will be heading to 10 cities in the country.

They are Alor Star (Dec 15 at Holiday Villa Hotel), Penang (Dec 16 at Traders Hotel), Ipoh (Dec 17 at Syuen Hotel), Malacca (Dec 18 at Equatorial Hotel), Johor Baru (Dec 19 and 20 at Persada Johor International Convention Centre), Kuching (Dec 13 at Riverside Majestic Hotel), Sibu (Dec 14 at RH Hotel), Sandakan (Dec 19 at Sandakan Hotel), Kota Kinabalu (Dec 20 at Promenade Hotel) and Tawau (Dec 21 at Heritage Hotel).

Admission is free. Opening hours are from noon to 6pm for the peninsula and noon to 4pm for Sabah and Sarawak.

For details, visit www.faconex.com.

■ Do you think study grants should be given to senior citizens?
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