

ASSURING ACCESS TO LIFELONG LEARNING IN MALAYSIA

BY:
RUSLAN ABDUL SHUKOR
MAJLIS AMANAH RAKYAT (MARA)
MINISTRY OF ENTREPRENEUR & COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT
MALAYSIA

WHY THE NEED OF LIFELONG LEARNING IN MALAYSIA

Lifelong Learning is important because of:

- the pressures of globalization
- rapid technological changes
- changing demography

Table 1: Population by Age 1995-2005

	1995	%	2000	%	2005	%
15 & below	7.18	34.7	7.71	33.1	8.15	31.3
15-24	4.03	19.5	4.37	18.8	4.98	19.1
25-39	4.98	24.1	5.4	23.3	5.83	22.4
39 & above	4.49	21.7	5.79	24.8	7.07	27.2
Total	20.68	100	23.27	100	26.03	100

LIFELONG LEARNING POLICIES IN MALAYSIA

Policy statements and references on Lifelong Learning in Malaysia are mentioned and highlighted in :

- 1. The Third Outline Perspective Plan (OPP3) 2001-2010**
- 2. Eighth Malaysian Plan (8MP)**
- 3. Ninth Malaysian Plan (9MP)**



Post-secondary Provision: Ministries, Institutions
and Qualifications Provided

Ministry	Institutions	Qualifications	Age Group	No.centres
Ministry of Education	Community Colleges	Certificate 2 years/Diploma 3 years	17	34
	Polytechnics	Certificate 2 years/Diploma 3 years	17-	20
	Public Universities	Diploma, 1 st . Degree, Post graduate	19+	17
	Private Universities	Diploma, 1 st . Degree, Post graduate	19+	14

Ministry	Institutions	Qualifications	Age Group	No.centres
Ministry of Human Resource	Industrial Training Institutes	Basic Trade skills (1-1.5) yrs leading to SKM Level 1 or 2 certification. Short courses	17-30	21
	Advanced Technology Centre (ADTEC)	Diploma in Technology	17-25	14
	Japan-Malaysia Technical Institute (JMTI)	Diploma in Technology	17-25	1
	All institutions registered with National Vocational Training Council	National Occupational Skills Standards-Malaysia skill Certificate		


Ministry	Institutions	Qualifications	Age Group	No. centres
Ministry of Youth & Sports	National Youth Training Institute	SKM Level 1-3/Diploma	17-25	3
	National Youth Advanced Skill Training Institute	SKM Level 1-3/Diploma		11
Ministry of Entrepreneur & Cooperative Development	GIATMARA	Certificate of competency & National Vocational Training Council	15-40	176
	MARA Higher/Skill Training Institutes	SKM Level 1-3/Diploma	17+	15
	MARA Business Institute	Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma	17-21	4
	UniKL-Institutes of Technology	Diploma and ist Degree	17+	7
	MARA State Offices	Entrepreneurship Development certificate	21 & above	14

Ministry	Institutions	Qualifications	Age Group	No. centres
Ministry of Agriculture	Agriculture Institutes	Certificate in Agriculture	17-24	N/A
Ministry of Health	Various colleges & institutions	Certificate and Diploma in various related occupations	17	N/A
Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM)	FMM Institute	Certificates & Diploma in various fields Short courses	17 & above	N/A

In the Malaysian context lifelong learning is closely associated with:

- productivity**
- employability**

and less associated with informal learning, learning for personal development or active citizenship



The Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Cooperative under its agency MARA is providing opportunities and facilities to those who aspire to become entrepreneurs. The programmes are as follows:

- **MARA ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING**
- **APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING SCHEME**
- **TECHNOPRENEURS -Technical
Entrepreneurs Programmes**
- **FURNITURE INDUSTRY
TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (FITEC)**

LIFELONG LEARNING AT TERTIARY EDUCATION LEVEL

Tertiary education :

- a major catalyst in generating a knowledgeable, skilled, and competent human resource to fulfill the needs and vision of the nation.
- able to develop critical, creative and innovative minds and promote the society and nation in the global competition.
- principal agent for developing a more equitable socio-economy based and the k-economy as well as for producing a society that is of good morals and integrity, competitive, and balanced physically, emotionally, spiritually and intellectually.

At the tertiary education level, the Government's main concern is the increasing number of school leavers every year

Level of Education	Age Group	Participation Rate		
		1993	1998	2003
Primary (grade 1-6)	6+ - 11+	98.57	95.06	98.49
Lower Secondary (grade 9-10)	12+ - 14+	85.97	85.61	84.40
Upper Secondary (grade 11-12)	15+ - 16+	55.74	66.68	73.52
Post Secondary & College	17+ - 18+	19.27	20.95	24.05
Univesity	19+ - 24+	5.9	14.5	18.7

**The tertiary education development plan by
the Ministry of Education for 2001-2010
which involves the following programmes:**

- Community colleges
- Polytechnics
- Public universities
- Private higher education institutions

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN THE TERTIARY EDUCATION

- Access to tertiary education is insufficient to meet the increasing demands of the society and nation. The low level of accessibility to tertiary education will hinder lifelong learning in the society
- Most private higher education institutions operate in major cities
- The participation of indigenous group in higher education is still low
- the government needs to provide more opportunities and facilities to science and technology education at the tertiary level to meet the target of 60% students in science and technology in 2005.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN THE TERTIARY EDUCATION

- The enrolment in the first degree, diploma and certificate programmes at the public and private universities is imbalanced and does not meet the national needs for the skilled and semi-professional workforce
- The limited provision of ICT infrastructure at the tertiary education institutions hinders the opportunities to fully utilise and exploit the advantages of ICT in order to promote e-management, e-learning and e-community at the institutions
- Most institutions are facing shortage of professional teaching staff -teaching staff is lagging behind on current practical knowledge (hands-on), skills and technological developments

E-LEARNING

Initiatives to access lifelong learning through e-learning in Malaysia are as follows:

- Malaysian Grid for Learning (MyGfL)
- Distance learning through e-Learning
- Virtual Library- Malaysian National Digital Library
- National Integration and Youth Development Pillar of the Lifelong Learning campaign organised by MCA
- Community Learning Centres and Multipurpose Community Telecentres
- Penang E-Learning

TARGET GROUPS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

1. **Employed**
2. **Unemployed**
 - **Graduates**
 - **Retrenced**
 - **School leavers**
3. **People of Special Needs**
4. **Aging population**

FINANCING OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Increase in budget allocation in education and training reflects the seriousness of the Government on education and training.

- 8MP the allocation was RM22.7 billion
- 9MP the allocation is increased to RM29 billion to benefit 5.7 million students

Establishment of funds to provide opportunities for school leavers and worker for training and retraining:

- Human Resource Development Fund
- Skills Development Fund

INCENTIVES GIVEN TO PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING

- Tax relief of RM5,000 to individual tax payers will be broadened
- Loans given to start up business after under going courses

CONCLUSION

- the good governance and planning by both the public and private sectors Malaysian seems to have embraced the culture for lifelong learning
- issues pertaining to accessibility for lifelong learning for all has been addressed some successfully and some need more effort and collaboration with others
- the collective mindset towards learning must be changed if the vision of creating a learning society is to be realized



THANK YOU