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TVET is Malaysia's key to Unesco board

SIGNIFICANT: Nation willing to share its expertise with others, says Mahdzir

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MALAYSIA is leveraging on its Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) experience and transformation as it bids for a seat in the 2015-2019 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's board of directors.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said being in the board would be significant for the country, as its TVET sector, which is part of the country's National Education Development Plan, had been selected as one of the eight points of the 2015 Asia-Pacific Conference of Education and Training (Acet) KL Declarations recently.

Voting for the seat will take place on Nov 11 at the 38th general Unesco conference, which is expected to be attended by 400 participants.

Mahdzir said following the growth in Acet, Malaysia was ready to share its experience with Unesco mem-

bers, in the development of TVET and education.

"During Acet, 27 countries realised that there is no other way for a country to succeed unless technical and vocational training are provided to youths.

"Malaysia is more than ready to share its experiences and methods in improving TVET with other countries in this conference," he said on Monday.

Mahdzir said the theme of his speech would touch on Malaysia's experience in changing the education system, including TVET, to produce skilled labour by 2020.

Malaysia had sat in the Unesco Executive Board five times since joining the organisation in 1958.

Mahdzir said the 27 countries that attended Acet 2015 were interested in Malaysia's TVET model as the field was no longer seen as a secondary choice for youths.

He said Malaysia, if mandated by Unesco, would be able to play a bigger role in the international education field.

He said, at the moment, Malaysia

was considered a representative of Asia Pacific in the education sector, where many developing member countries were interested with the country's education transformation model.

"Besides that, we also have a special programme in the 2013-2025 Education Blueprint," he said.

Mahdzir held several meetings with representatives of member countries as part of the lobbying process and to strengthen ties.

He also paid a courtesy call to Unesco head director Irina Bokova at the Unesco headquarters here on Sunday.

On Monday, Malaysia continued lobbying via the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) meeting.

Malaysia also carried out exhibitions and performances on education and culture to prove its active participation in Unesco programmes.

Mahdzir said Malaysia would be become an attraction in social and cultural fields, which were also part of Unesco's agenda.

The Malaysian delegation included the Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Tourism and Culture, and the Women, Family and Community Development ministries.

El Nino 'sekat' banjir besar

Kuala Lumpur: Risiko beberapa negeri mengalami bencana banjir besar dan hujan lebat dijangka berkurang dengan kehadiran fenomena El Nino berintensiti kuat ketika ini.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia) Datuk Che Gayah Ismail berkata, negara diramal tidak mengalami banjir besar seperti akhir tahun lalu di pantai timur yang berpunca daripada cuaca lembap disertai hujan berpanjangan.

"Musim tengkujuh disertai El Nino akan mengurangkan episod hujan daripada lima kepada empat, berbanding tanpa El Nino yang mewujudkan sehingga lima episod seperti terjadi di pantai timur tahun lalu.

"Memang menjadi kebimbangan MetMalaysia sekiranya musim tengkujuh tidak disertai El Nino ia akan melembapkan lagi cuaca dan boleh mengakibatkan banjir besar ekstrem," katanya ketika dihubungi, di sini, semalam.

