

Our grad employment rate better than that of US

ACHIEVEMENT: ILO statistics reveal country ahead of several developed countries

PUNITHA KUMAR
KUALA LUMPUR
punithak@nst.com.my

THE country added another feather to its cap when statistics showed it had the lowest graduate unemployment rate at 3.3 per cent among several developed countries.

Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said the figures from the International Labour Organisation showed the country was ahead when compared with unemployment rates in the United States (7.5 per cent), Canada (7.2 per cent) and Japan (4.1 per cent).

"Also, according to a study conducted by the ministry last year, 51.1 per cent or 103,310 graduates secured jobs within six months post-graduation.

"This shows that a majority of our graduates are becoming increasingly employable and possess qualities required by their companies," he said at a Career and Entrepreneurial Carnival Graduates 2013 (K3G) event organised by the ministry and Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Of the remaining graduates, 35,109 (17.4 per cent) intended to further their studies, 2,949 (1.5 per cent) took skill training courses, 9,125 (4.5 per cent) were awaiting job placements and 51,835 (25.6 per cent) were unemployed six months post-graduation.



(From left) **Universiti Putra Malaysia Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Fauzi Ramlan and Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh** visiting an education booth at the Career and Entrepreneurial Carnival Graduates 2013 event at Putra World Trade Centre yesterday. Pic by Khairull Azry Bidin

But, according to the ministry's Graduate Tracking Study 2012, only 30 per cent of first degree graduates were employed with a basic salary of more than RM2,500, he said.

"We will need to work on this if we wish to achieve a high-income nation status by 2020, as the per-

centage is low.

"We are determined to work to ensure our graduates are marketable and highly qualified in their fields when the ministry created the Graduate Employability Blueprint 2012-2017."

Idris said the blueprint would identify a higher education system

that was capable of creating exceptional graduates while focussing on dream job opportunities. The ministry would rope in the private sector to provide on-the-job training for graduates.

The fair provided about 4,000 job opportunities, on-the-spot interviews and a resume clinic.