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## Graduates told to be well prepared to face challenges

## **BY NORNASHEILA ZAIDI**

**KOTA SAMARAHAN:** Students graduates were advised to prepare themselves with enough knowledge and skills in order to compete with the foreign workers who are now filling the job market in the country and the state as well.

State Secretary Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Morshidi Abdul Ghani stressed that the knowledge and skills would assist them in facing the current global challenges.

"The government is concern with the development of the human resources in the nation and always proactive in transforming the education which not only focused in academic but also skills," stressed Morshidi.

Speaking at the 15th Convocation Ceremony of Sarawak Skills Development

Centre (PPKS) and International College of Advanced Technology (ICATS) held at DeTAR PUTRA, UNIMAS last Wednesday, Morshidi said that the graduates also needed to be progressive and innovative in any future endeavors in order to cross international borders.

The training models provided by the skills centre, Morshidi added needed to be modified to suit the job market. Based on report, he said, 83

per cent of the students who had the relevant training skills were offered jobs six months after graduating.

"We also have to follow an example from advanced countries where the concept of 'Dual Training System' has long been practised and has established the country as the pioneer in technology training,"Morshidi said. Mutual understanding and

close rapport between the industries and training providers should be enhanced in order to avoid training mismatch, he added, and with the RM35 million allocation given by the government to enlarge the campus, he was confident that PPKS/ICATS would be able to provide more new skills training.

The chairman of PPKS/ICATS, Tan Sri Datuk Amar Dr Haji Abdul Aziz Dato Haji Husain who was also present at the ceremony said that, since the establishment of the centre, about 9300 graduates had been produced.

At the graduation ceremony on Wednesday, 471 received their diplomas and certificates in the various courses including the three new courses namely Diploma in Civil Engineering, Certificate in Geomatic Engineering and Certificate in Environmental Tourism Management.

