

'German Days' coming to Kuching

Borneo Post 17/4/09 Pg. 13 Tuesday

KUCHING: The first ever Germany - Malaysia exhibition to enlighten Sarawakians on business, education, science and arts in the European country will be held here from April 22-24.

It will be known as 'German Days in Kuching' and carry the tag line 'Germany Faces Malaysia'.

Deputy State Secretary Datuk Abdul Ghafur Shariff said similar exhibitions have been successfully held in the United States and Australia.

"This event is to showcase the German economy and culture as well as to promote Germany as an educational hub for science and engineering," he told a press conference yesterday.

Ghafur said the exhibition would lay the groundwork for further technical and cultural exchanges.

Taking engineering studies as an example, he said Malaysian universities and institutions of higher learning should look at aspects such as skills training to make graduates more marketable.

"Our engineering course comes with a period of three years and then graduates can apply for a job. Whereas in Germany, engineering students are required to get hands-on training before going into the job market," said Ghafur.

He revealed that 10 of the top 30 world-class companies such as Mercedes Benz,



FIRST IN MALAYSIA: Ghafur (centre), Lang (second left) and others show the 'Germany Faces Malaysia' t-shirt.

Bayer, Siemens and B Braun are expected at the three-day exhibition.

"The exhibition also presents a strategic avenue for German and local businesses to tap the economic opportunities especially in the development of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE)," he said.

Ghafur expressed confidence that the exhibition would be able to attract potential investors for SCORE.

Chief Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud is scheduled to launch the exhibition at Dewan Tun Abdul Razak, Sarawak Museum at 10am on April 22.

Among the highlights are the month-long (April 22 to

May 22) '100 best posters' exhibition, business and education fair, poster design workshop, business contact dinner, German film festival and German food festival (April 22-26).

German Embassy Culture Department head Andreas Lang said Kuching was chosen for the exhibition given its great potential.

"Sarawak is the biggest state in Malaysia. A number of German companies are interested in the business industry here," said Lang.

Noting that many may not know much about Germany, Lang believes the exhibition would help enhance understanding on the European country as a global player.

"Germans are interested in

Sarawak while some of them are already engaged here. It is also to promote Germany as a place for Malaysians to study," he said.

Lang was optimistic that the exhibition would foster closer rapport between Germany and Sarawak.

Meanwhile, four German films will be screened at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) and Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus.

They are 'Mostly Martha' directed by Sandra Nettelbeck, 'One day in Europe' by Hannes Stoehr, 'The wood is not enough' by Sven Unterwaldt and 'The lives of the others' by F Henckel von Donnersmarck.

For details go to <http://www.kuala-lumpur.diplo.de>.