

MICRO-CREDENTIALS PORTAL LAUNCHED

NEW STRAITS TIMES MS 14 4/16/2022

One-stop centre on micro-credential programmes to support lifelong learning

ADRIAN DAVID
CYBERJAYA
news@nst.com.my



Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Noraini Ahmad (third from right) and Higher Education Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Abdul Razak Jaafar (third from left) at the launch of the Micro-credentials Portal in Cyberjaya.

PICTURE BY ADRIAN DAVID

A PORTAL to promote flexible education has been launched as one of the main thrusts to support lifelong learning.

The Micro-credentials Portal by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) will serve as a one-stop centre for local and international students to obtain information on micro-credential programmes in Malaysia.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Noraini Ahmad said the portal would provide a plat-

form to institutions of higher learning, allow reviews of micro-credentials and allow the transfer of students' credits to be awarded academic qualifications.

"This portal will strengthen the lifelong learning ecosystem.

"The initiative is not only focused on expanding access, but also emphasises the quality aspect to facilitate recognition for students.

"It is hoped that more accredited programmes will be broken down

and listed on the portal for everyone's reference," Noraini said at the launch of the portal at the MQA headquarters.

Present were Higher Education Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Abdul Razak Jaafar, deputy secretary-general (policy) Datuk Dr Megat Sany Megat Ahmad Supian, deputy secretary-general (management and development) Dr Mohd Zabri Yusoff, director-general Professor Datuk Dr Husaini Omar, MQA council chair-

man Tan Sri Mohd Khairul Adib Abdul Rahman and MQA chief executive officer Professor Datuk Dr Mohammad Shatar Sabran.

Noraini advised institutions of higher learning to strengthen cooperation and synergies of micro-credentials offered with MQA.

She said this would strengthen all guidelines and principles of the micro-credentials ecosystem based on the Malaysian Qualifications Framework.

"This will attract international

students to follow micro-credential programmes in Malaysia and help make the country a global education hub."

Shatar said in meetings with international quality assurance agencies in the United Arab Emirates, India, United Kingdom and Spain, micro-credentials were a main topic of discussion.

"Short-term courses are at the core of the industry's demand in upskilling and reskilling, thus, indicating that micro-credentials are the education of the future.

"We can take pride that our country is a pioneer, like when Malaysia became the world's second-highest search on Google Trends for micro-credentials, after Australia."

He said at the Southeast Asian level, Asean Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) executives had also started discussing micro-credentials.

"As AQAN president, I believe Malaysia and MQA will be the reference centre for this initiative.