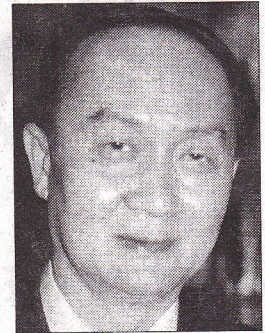


# FSM to promote Sabah as the centre for MICE



Wong

## Barnard Yaang

**KOTA KINABALU:** The Federation of Sabah Manufacturers (FSM) is embarking on plans to promote Sabah as the centre for Meetings, Incentives, Conference and Exhibitions (MICE).

Its President, Datuk Wong Khen Thau said they are in the midst of implementing the plans with all activities geared to be conducted at the federation's new headquarters, Wisma FSM, at the Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park (KKIP).

Wisma FSM, he said has the facilities needed to hold conferences, forums, dialogues, training and is also equipped with a research centre and library.

Nevertheless, he said the FSM's immediate focus is also on human capital development.

"FSM shall play a complementary role to the government's effort (in MICE) and shall be working very closely with the Ministry of Industrial Development," he said at the federation's 26th Annual Dinner on Friday.

On other developments, he said the

organisation was also looking into the setting up a FSM Institute of Technology on the third floor of Wisma FSM.

"FSM will also be looking into the training and development needs to efficiently and effectively manage a Halal Park as initiated by the Ministry," he said.

In this venture, Wong said more locals would be given a chance to participate.

On businesses, particularly small and medium industries (SMIs), small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and cottage industries are behind in terms of technology, he said.

According to him, the capabilities of information and communications technology (ICT) have not been fully explored by the businesses, thus limiting the opportunities of these entrepreneurs to grow and expand.

ICT, he said, is here to stay and would become increasingly crucial to businesses.

Therefore, he said it must be adopted whatever the industry or sector may be adding that the training must be industry-focused.

Of equal importance, Wong said is the need to impart to young entrepreneurs the right attitude and mindset to conduct themselves in today's highly challenging and globalised business environment.

"On top of gaining the right industrial skills and knowledge, today's entrepreneurs must possess the attitudinal maturity to grow, sustain and succeed.

"Such positive attitude can be more effectively nurtured especially among the young trainees," he said.

Hence, he said that future training courses at the FSM Institute of Technology would aim to achieve competency levels to be on par or better than foreign countries.

He said many Sabah employers are sourcing skilled manpower from foreign countries due to a lack of skilled workers locally.

Towards this end he said the institute could more effectively address the skilled manpower needs of the industry whilst creating employment opportunities to locals, thus reducing the State's dependency on foreign skilled labours.