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Upgrade for KKTM, IKM

KUALA LUMPUR: Mara has received offer letters from the Education Ministry to upgrade the Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi Mara (KKTM) and Institut Kemahiran Mara (IKM) to Mara University Colleges.

Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said the matter, however, needed to be studied in depth from various aspects as the upgrading would require big financial allocations.

"The matter is at the Education Ministry-level now. We also need to ensure that the facilities of these skills training institutions can support the effort of producing world-class human capital.

"With the setting up of the second technical university after Universiti Kuala Lumpur, more educational, training and research and development programmes that are industry-driven and using high technology can be implemented."

Mohd Shafie said this in his speech at the Mara Educators Day 2013 celebration attended by more than 1,000 Mara educators, here, today.

He said Mara was a very impor-

tant body in national development as it had assisted almost two million people in the educational field since its establishment.

He noted that the Mara Junior Science College (MRSM), for instance, had produced many technocrats, outstanding corporate figures and leaders including newly appointed Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar (former Maybank president and CEO) and Kedah new Menteri Besar Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir.

"The people at Mara, especially its educators, are the backbone of the organisation that has contributed tremendously to the development and prosperity that the country enjoys today," he said.

At the function, Mohd Shafie also presented the anugerah (award) Tokoh Pendidik Mara 2013 to Kolej Antarabangsa Teknologi dan Profesional Perlis chief executive officer Datuk Dr Hashim Ahmad, who was also behind the setting up of the Giat Mara Training Centre.

Mara director-general Datuk Ibrahim Ahmad in his speech said that Mara would reveal its new education philosophy soon.