

# Yap: We're grooming students to face 4th Industrial Revolution

**LONDON:** Malaysia is grooming students to face the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Mary Yap Kain Ching told the Education World Forum 2018.

Yap, who spoke at a keynote session last week, told the audience about the Higher Education Ministry's Blueprint and Malaysia's approach to redesigning education.

The forum attracted nearly 100 education ministers to the three-day annual event, where education pioneers, policymakers and education experts debated education policy.

A session was held where education ministers gave an assessment of countries' common is-

suues and challenges.

Yap's presentation of the blueprint was well received, with participants asking to know more about its implementation as the country faced an increasingly technologically-influenced world and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Yap outlined four initiatives in meeting the challenges head-on: Integrated Cumulative Grade Point Average; 2u2i, or work-based learning programme, where students spend two years at universities and two years of hands-on prac-



*Datuk Dr Mary Yap Kain Ching*

tice in the industry; CEO@Faculty Programme; and the Massive Open Online Courses.

She highlighted the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning programme, which provides opportunities for people who lack formal academic qualifications to pursue studies in higher education institu-

tions. She spoke about measures taken to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which identified areas such as awareness and readiness, adaptive skills and re-

flective skills.

She said because the Fourth Industrial Revolution brought a lot of uncertainties, higher education institutions must produce graduates who possessed "intangible human elements, such as civilisational literacy, compassion, resilience, adaptability, values and ethics".

"Both students and institutions must be able to learn, unlearn, relearn and co-learn," she said of the elements needed to survive.

Concluding on the topic of humanising education, Yap said students were the most important stakeholders.

"Shift 1 of our blueprint is about nurturing holistic, entrepre-

neurial and balanced graduates. We aim to produce graduates who possess strong ethics, values and spirituality."

She said the ministry this year planned to introduce the emotional intelligence module to equip students with skills and knowledge to face technology-driven challenges.

She said the blueprint was the people's blueprint, which was the product of discussions at town hall meetings to gather opinions.

She emphasised that it was important that everyone in the ministry was equipped to adapt to changes. "There is no other way but to adapt and find relevance in what we are doing." **By Zaharah Othman**