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Help to Instill Soft Skills in Our Youth

I have recently come across various reports highlighting the Education Ministry's plan to enhance the local education system prior to the arrival of the New Year.

The reports have provided concise overviews of how much the Ministry wishes to go into the National Education Blueprint 2006-2010. However, the main point that caught my attention was their mission to create human capital that is suitable for the future workforce.

Much has been said about the revamping exercise of the local education system. The government has begun to sit up and take notice of the tremendous lack of the ideal skill sets in our youth. Due to the long-standing system implemented in government institutes of education, youngsters are consistently taught the ropes of hard skills, encompassing of technical and administrative knowledge.

The implementation of the National Education Blueprint 2006-2010 is said to be amplified a notch higher in 2008. The Ministry has commented that they will now embark on educational programmes that would include curriculum and co-curricular activities which will instill knowledge, skills, cultural elements and beliefs to help develop an all-rounder pupil. This means that there is now room for soft skills training.

In this global community, the skill sets of a job candidate is increasingly crucial as employers are now seeking for individuals who can deliver beyond what is promised on paper qualifications. Impressive grades and other academic achievements no longer live up to the burgeoning need for the skills to communicate, the skills to lead and the skills to work in teams.

It is about time the government pushes the envelope on implementing soft skills training into our traditional education system. The local human capital is an area that requires great attention as demands and expectations across the job industries are rapidly increasing.

We must help the youth in living up to the standards of today's job market. Otherwise, they will be nothing but an added burden to our workforce.

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