

Financial sector seeks talented people

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BANKING and financial institutions are still looking for talented people to work with them despite the global economic slowdown, says Institute of Bankers Malaysia (IBBM) chief executive officer Dr Mohd Kamal Khir.

"There are about 80 banking and financial institutions offering jobs to those who have talents in financial services such as insurance, *takaful* and sales," he said yesterday after the launch of The Financial Sector Enrichment Programme's (FSTEP) new website.

Kamal says as there is still demand for human capital from these institutions, FSTEP will give support by

preparing the talented people to work with them.

"This programme is targeting graduates from local and foreign institutions and those working in the non-financial sector but interested to pursue careers in the financial services industry," he says.

FSTEP head Lee Khee Joo says the one-year intensive programme involves a lot of practical training where practitioners from banks will come and train the participants.

"It involves six months of classroom training and another six months of practical training at banks or other financial institutions.

"Once they have finished the programme, the students may opt to join either conventional, investment

or Islamic banks or insurance/*takaful* operators," he says.

He adds that each participant will be given a tax-free allowance of RM2,200 a month.

"We hope the new website will be a source of information apart from creating awareness to people, especially graduates, looking for employment opportunities at this challenging times," he says.

To be eligible for this programme, Lee says applicants must be Malaysian citizens with cumulative grade point average of 3.25 and above in any degree, and not above 30 years of age.

FSTEP is a collaboration between financial industry players and Bank Negara and managed by IBBM. Its next intake is July.