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Consider jobs not related to field of study, grads urged

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GEORGE TOWN: Graduates have been advised to consider jobs other than those related to their principal field of study, said TalentCorp Malaysia.

"Graduates who pursued a degree in Islamic Studies, for example, should not merely think of becoming a teacher or an ustaz.

"They should also consider jobs in Islamic banking or the fast-moving consumer goods sector which

involves the application of *halal* certification," said TalentCorp's graduate employability head for its Malaysian talent development unit Siti Norliza Mohd Sahar.

"Therefore, they should broaden their horizons and keep their options open towards other jobs which are equally attractive," she said during a talk at the Jobstreet.com Human Resource Networking Event at Hotel Equatorial here yesterday.

According to Siti Norliza, the Higher Education Ministry's

Graduate Tracer Study Executive Report 2011 revealed a high number of unemployed persons were found among those who scored a cumulative grade point average of between 3.0 and 3.5.

"This was partly because there was lack of awareness among graduates about the options out there, as well as being too literal in their choice of jobs.

"TalentCorp is now going into the universities by engaging professionals to give short talks after lectures

on jobs that undergraduates should consider after completing their studies," she said.

Meanwhile, JobStreet.com's country manager Chook Yuh Yng said the company's recent Job Outlook Report anticipated that hiring activities in Malaysia might slow down in the third quarter due to the global economic situation, especially in the United States and Europe.

"While the overall sentiment on job growth in Malaysia rose by 7%

from the third quarter of last year, most companies are not looking at any new hiring during this period.

"Employers, however, did say they would be looking to fill more sales positions as sales jobs have increased by 15% in the third quarter of this year compared to 2012."

According to Chook, accounting and finance was the next largest specialisation that employers were looking to fill, followed by marketing, manufacturing and administration.