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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 21 (BERNAMA)— MALAYALISA WELCOMES ALL FORMS OF ASSISTANCE FROM ANY SOURCE TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF ITS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES, EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY.

WHILE DOING THIS, THE COUNTRY WAS ALSO PREPARED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO HELP OTHER NATIONS +IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE,+ HE ASSURED.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU SIXTH COLLOQUIUM ON INTRA-REGIONAL TECHNICIAN TRAINING HERE.

HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD EMBARKED ON A RAPID INDUSTRIALISATION PROGRAMME AND THIS HAD CREATED A GREAT NEED FOR PROFESSIONALS, TECHNICIANS AND OTHER SKILLED WORKERS.

DR. MAHATHIR OBSERVED THAT SKILLED MANPOWER WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY RESOGNISED AS CRUCIAL IN A TECHNOLOGY-DOMINATED WORLD.

AS SUCH MALAYALIA BELIEVED THAT INTRA-REGIONAL CO-OPERATION WAS NECESSARY IF COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA WERE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

LARGE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS WOULD NOT BRING THE DESIRED RESULTS IF THE COUNTRIES COULD NOT PRODUCE SUFFICIENT SKILLED MANPOWER TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECTS. — BERNAMA MORE 1140/1B

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID SOME COUNTRIES WERE EXPERIENCING THE PROBLEM OF UNDER-DEVELOPMENT ALTHOUGH THEY HAD RICH NATURAL AND PHYSICAL RESOURCES.

THIS COULD BE DUE TO LACK OF SKILLED MANPOWER AND POOR UTILISATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

AS SUCH HE FELT THAT DISCUSSIONS ON PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE PLANNING OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING WERE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID TO MEET THE DEMAND OF SKILLED MANPOWER, THE GOVERNMENT HAD SET UP A POLYTECHNIC, EIGHT TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS AND 20 VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS.

+ANOTHER POLYTECHNIC IS AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF PLANNING, Z HE SAID.

HE THANKED JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, BRITISH, CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAD PROVIDED AID IN TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TO MALAYSIA. — BERNAMA MORE 1157/1B

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→ EARLIER, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EDUCATION, TAN SRI HAJI HAMDAN SHEIKH TAHIR, SAID ANOTHER POLYTECHNIC CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING 2,000 STUDENTS WOULD BE BUILT IN KUANTAN NEXT YEAR.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO PLANNING TO SET UP MORE TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS.

EMPHASIS WAS BEING GIVEN TOWARDS IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF GENERAL, VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR WORK IN INDUSTRY.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU, MR. I. K. MCGREGOR SAID THE MEMBERSHIP OF COLOMBO PLAN HAD GROWN FROM SEVEN COUNTRIES IN 1951 TO 27.

IT HAD PROVIDED 8,003 TRAINING AND STUDENT PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE REGION SINCE 1951. MALAYSIA ALONE PROVIDED 168 SUCH PROGRAMMES SINCE 1957.

THE INTRA-REGIONAL TRAINING ACCOUNTED FOR 80 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL PROGRAMMES PROVIDED UNDER THE PLAN.

MR. MCGREGOR SAID THE COLLOQUIUM WOULD DEAL MAINLY WITH:-

- . THE INFLUENCE OF TECHNICIAN EDUCATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BOTH LONG AND SHORT TERM;
- . RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN TECHNICIAN EDUCATION; AND
- . IMPROVING THE STATUS OF TECHNICIANS.

ABOUT 100 PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS FROM 27 MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE ATTENDING THE MEETING. — BERNAMA 1212/1B