

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 2 (BERNAMA) — THE EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, HOPED THAT MORE PEOPLE WOULD LEARN FRENCH TO PROMOTE RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND AFRICA.

HE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE THESE COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY KHMER REPUBLIC, LAOS AND VIETNAM PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE GROWTH OF THE REGION.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE ALLIANCE FRANCAISE SCHOOL HERE TONIGHT. THE SCHOOL HAD TAUGHT FRENCH TO ABOUT 600 PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY.

ALSO PRESENT WAS THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER, DATO' NUSA HITAM, AND THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA, MR. FRANCOIS DE QUIRIELLE. — BERNAMA 2040/YF