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MAHATHIR

PENANG, DEC. 11 (BERNAMA) — EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED HAS CALLED ON UNIVERSITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO SPECIALISE IN A PARTICULAR FIELD TO MAINTAIN HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

+KNOWLEDGE IS GROWING SO FAST THAT NO UNIVERSITY CAN PRETEND TO COVER ALL, + HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ALTERNATIVES OPTIMISATION OF TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESSES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIAN UNIVERSITIES AT UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA HERE.

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE NOT THAT PROSPEROUS TO BE ENGAGED IN RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP PERTAINING TO EVERY BRANCH OF KNOWLEDGE.

EVEN A SINGLE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS OR ECONOMICS MUST DECIDE TO CONCENTRATE ON AREAS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS, HE SAID.

HE ALSO WARNED THAT WHILE SPECIALISING, A UNIVERSITY MUST BE VIGILANT AGAINST THE DANGER OF OVER-SPECIALISATION.

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO CALLED FOR SOME TRAINING PROGRAMME TO BE WORKED OUT TO ENSURE THAT UNIVERSITY TEACHERS COULD EFFECTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPTIMAL STUDENT DEVELOPMENT. — BERNAMA MORE

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HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WHILE RIGOROUS PROFESSIONAL TRAINING WAS REQUIRED FOR TEACHERS AT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS, NO SUCH TRAINING WAS THOUGHT NECESSARY FOR THOSE WHO WANTED TO TEACH IN A UNIVERSITY.

THE ONLY IMPORTANT CRITERION FOR SELECTION AS A UNIVERSITY TEACHER WAS ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION.

EARLIER, THE DIRECTOR OF THE REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (RIHED), DR. AMNUAY TAPINGKAE, SAID THE WORLD-WIDE PROBLEM IN EDUCATION COULD BE APPROACHED BY:-

+ IDENTIFYING THE CHALLENGES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION DUE TO THE RAPID ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES;

+ ANALYZING THE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESSES WITHIN THE UNIVERSITIES;

+ ASSESSING CRITICALLY THE EXPERIENCES OF THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AND

+FORMULATING NEW CONCEPTS OF EFFECTIVE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES TO OPTIMISE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT.

ABOUT 30 DELEGATES FROM FIVE ASIAN COUNTRIES ARE ATTENDING THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY RIHED.

THEY ARE FROM INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, THAILAND AND MALAYSIA. — BERNAMA 1340/YF

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