

What growing nations can do for the world: Dr M

N.S.T. 11 SEP 1980

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Developing countries can restore a proper balance in the resources-population equation by improving their economic opportunities and productive capacities.

Deputy Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) said today such increased productivity and efficient resource utilisation should be related to the supply side of the equation.

Developing nations, he added, hungered for development, but not of the kind which depended on aid or the traditional relationship between consumer and producer nations.

He was speaking at the opening of the Convention of Asean Parliamentarians on Resources, Population and Development at the Parliament House here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said development would restore balance to the equation because it would act on both aspects of supply and demand.

"It is necessary that this basic aspiration be understood by all those who are involved in population and development

issues," he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister said it was thus appropriate for Asean to embark upon a collective stock-taking of the group's available resources and to plan for their effective utilisation.

He said developing nations must recognise the need for better resource allocation within their economic sectors, the deliberate conservation of their non-renewable resources and avoid adopting wasteful consumption habits and lifestyle.

Consensus

A regional approach to resource utilisation and management, particularly in economic co-operation, could help Asean nations do better in planning the use of their resources, he added.

The 1979 Colombo Conference had provided for the exchange of views of Parliamentarians from both the developed and developing nations.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said while the Colombo Declaration could be described as a harmonious consensus, the follow-up by Parliamentarians from developed nations indicated little change from their

traditional view of the equation as a problem of too many people and how to reduce the numbers.

The Deputy Prime Minister added that the equation should also be looked on the supply side as well and an equilibrium could be achieved by devising ways of increasing the efficient and productive utilisation of available resources.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Asean, with its collective strength in resources and economic growth potential, could play a major role in the early creation of an international economic system based on fairness, interdependence and co-operation.