

# Going East

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## to learn the skills...

THE Government is drawing up plans to send students for training in the technical and management fields in Japan and South Korea, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the Dewan Negara yesterday.

He was replying to Sen. Datuk Choo Chin Hwa who wanted to know the measures to be taken to encourage Malaysians to look east.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that the Government wanted to emulate Japan and South Korea in certain aspects like work ethics.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that until now the country had been overdependent on technology transfer from the west.

### Ethics

"We have sent thousands of our citizens for studies in the west.

"They have been exposed to all sorts of influences and cultural values of the west.

"To balance the situation I think it is good if we can turn to the east because technological development in Japan and South Korea is also high," he added.

The Prime Minister said at the moment the transfer of high technology in heavy industry on a systematic basis was

being carried out between Malaysia and Japan and South Korea.

He said this was done through several development projects initiated either by the Government or the private sector.

"My hope is that by emulating the Japanese and South Koreans in work ethics and with the transfer of technology, we will continue to progress in technological development apart from maintaining our own value systems," he added.

Related to the "Look East" policy, Deputy Education Minister Datuk Haji Suhaimi Datuk Kamaruddin said that at the moment 136 students were studying the Japanese language at the Mara Institute of Technology.

He said this batch of students would later be sent to Japan for further training in the technical field.

The deputy minister also told Sen. Datuk Yap Peng that the ministry would soon launch a special programme on the teaching of Japanese in upper secondary schools.

He said the ministry had identified six fully residential schools under the programme.

He said the ministry was also communicating with the Japanese Embassy here for the supply of teachers of the Japanese language.

He said the Government had a long-term plan to make Japanese and other languages as optional languages whose teaching would be gradually extended to more schools.