

# Our future lies in industrialisation

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — would be between the 25 Prime Minister Datuk Seri and 39 age group.

Dr Mahathir Mohamad said He said the labour force today that Malaysia's fu- in this age group would in- ture lay in rndustrialhsation crease by 4.9 per cent per and this was the mottivationannum.

behind the Look East policy. He stressed that indus- trialisation would help pro- vide jobs for the nation's ra- pidly growing workforce and enable the country to grow and prosper.

"We want to provide jobs for our people, particularly young people coming out from schools, colleges and universities," he said when opening the seventh joint annual conference of the Malaysia-Japan Economic Association and the Japan Malaysia Economic Associ- ation.

He added that agriculture and mining could not provide these job opportunities because of the scarcity of land and resource and in- creased mechanisation could also further reduce the job opportunities in these two areas.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the nation's labour force would reach nearly 6.3 million by next year. Of this, 2.6 million or 41.1 per cent of the labour force

two more forms of training — institutional linkages in higher learning and univer- sities and in research and development and training institutes, and administra- tion to complement existing youth programmes.

He said the three existing programmes were in-plant training, academic/techni- cat education and executive development training.

"Although these efforts are small in comparison with our needs we will step up these programmes as we begin to gather more infor- mation on the effectiveness

of each programme."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysia also wel- come assistance from out- side sources to modernise its small-scale industries.

"In particular, we would like to see that large, medi- um and small scale indus- tries develop in such a way that they will reinforce the strength of each other," he said.

He added that they must be mutually beneficial to one another so that all the sectors of the economy would prosper and produc- tivity enhanced.