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MAHATHIR-CONFERENCE (CORRECTED RPTN)

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 24 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY TOOK PART IN A 45-MINUTE +TELECONFERENCE+ DURING WHICH HE ASKED A COMPUTER SCIENTIST IN WASHINGTON -- VIA A SATELLITE LINK-UP

-- TWO QUESTIONS ON +ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE+.

THE +TELECONFERENCE+, HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ASEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK BEING HELD HERE, WAS ALSO PARTICIPATED BY A PANEL COMPRISING ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, WHO ASKED ONE QUESTION EACH.

THE SCIENTIST WHO RESPONDED TO THEIR QUERIES WAS DR RAYMOND KURZWEIL, CHAIRMAN OF KURZWEIL APPLIED INTELLIGENCE INCORPORATED WHO WAS NAMED THE +OUTSTANDING YOUNG SCIENTIST OF 1978+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO ASKED THE FIRST QUESTION, ALSO WOUND UP THE +TELECONFERENCE+ BY ASKING HOW +ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE+ WOULD CHANGE THE PRESENT SCENARIO WHERE PRIMARY COMMODITIES PRODUCED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY SUBSTITUTES FOUND AS A RESULT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.

DR KURZWEIL, IN HIS REPLY, AGREED THAT COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY USED VERY LITTLE NATURAL RESOURCES BUT SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT WAS DETRIMENTAL WOULD DEPEND ON THE ABILITY OF A NATION TO HARNESS THE TECHNOLOGY TO ITS ADVANTAGE.

THE +TELECONFERENCE+ AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE, CHAIRED BY SIME DARBY MANAGING DIRECTOR HAJI SALLEH MASDUKI, WAS WITNESSED BY SEVERAL HUNDRED GUESTS. -- BERNAMA

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