

# PM: No incentives for software developers/

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Computers

**PRIME MINISTER Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** has advised local software developers not to expect special incentives from the Government as offered by other countries.

"The country does not need such a scheme as yet. We must learn how to work without relying too much on incentives. If local industries hoped for incen-

tives, the country will not benefit," he told reporters after declaring open a seminar on White Collar "Quality" in Kuala Lumpur. The seminar was jointly organised by Sirim and IBM Malaysia.

Earlier, in his opening speech, the Prime Minister described the computer industry, including data processing and

software, as one that would require increased white collar skill in future.

In July, the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority held meetings with the Association of the Computer Industry of Malaysia, Malaysian Institute of Microelectronics Systems, representatives from the Treasury and a Canadian software

consultant.

The meetings looked into possibilities to make the local computer industry a promoted activity under the Promotion of Investments Act, 1986. Among the proposals were granting pioneer status to the industry and double deduction taxation for software houses.

Meanwhile, Pikom president

Robert Teo said: "There have been no follow-up meetings after those held in July. It is difficult to identify prop& incentives ... and we are still working on them.

"Mida will be pleased to speak to software houses seeking incentives, on individual basis, at least for the moment," a Mida spokesman said.