

Dr M: Experts should strive to improve goods

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysia should lead in the area of research on goods produced in tropical countries and researchers should be more curious in order to improve the quality of products.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir ~~Mohamad~~ said researchers should not be contended with the quality of local products but instead strive to improve it.

"Researchers have to be more curious if they want to improve the quality of the products," he said at the 15th anniversary dinner of Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (Sirim) today.

He said researchers sometimes had the tendency to adjust themselves to the environment and this was not good enough.

"Curious researchers will want to adjust the environment to suit themselves and not the other round.

"We should look around us and see how we can improve the conditions to make the environment a better place to live in."

Dr Mahathir said it was good to be curious and researchers should not ac-

cept things as they were but instead endeavoured to improve the environment.

He said research sometimes began from small discoveries which could lead to the improvement of local goods.

He said local goods were sometimes much better in quality than those imported.

"Some Malaysians succumb to inferiority complex as they tend to believe that imported goods are of better quality than those manufactured locally."

In a lighter vein, he said: "Sometimes, some men tend to think that other people's wives are prettier than their's.

"But if you take a closer look at your wife, you will find she is more beautiful than the wives of other people."

Dr Mahathir later presented awards to 25 companies which have participated in Sirim's certification scheme since Sirim was established 15 years ago.

Also present at the dinner was Science, Technology and Environment Minister Law Heng Ding and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Dr Sulaiman Daud.