

# Dr M: Sirim can lead research on goods used in the tropics

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By OUR REPORTER

MALAYSIA has the facility and expertise to lead research on goods that will suit the tropical climate, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last night.

Speaking at the 15th anniversary dinner of the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (Sirim), Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said a wide range of goods used in tropical countries today, from household items to motor vehicles, are designed by temperate countries and therefore more suitable for their climate.

These items and goods are used widely in Malaysia and other tropical countries because no one has come up with designs for these goods tailored for such a climate.

Malaysia, through Sirim and its 15 years of experience in research and development as well as standards research, can spearhead efforts to design goods to suit the tropical climate.

Congratulating Sirim on the anniversary, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the support and confidence of the people in efforts undertaken by Sirim are vital to attain the desired goals.

"Some of our people still tend to think that imported items are of better standard than goods made locally. This is an inferiority complex on their part, because in truth many items made locally are better in quality and standard than the imported versions.

This, he added, calls for a need for the people to be more curious. "Let's be curious. Because the tendency of some people is to adjust themselves to the environment but with curious people, they try to change the environment to suit their needs."

■ The Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (Sirim), in a joint effort with Shell Malaysia, will launch a Quality Promotion via television and radio and in the cinemas to raise public consciousness towards quality goods.

The promotion, which starts today, is aimed at creating public awareness of, and confidence in, quality Made-in-Malaysia products which bear the Malaysian standard or "MS" stamp, said Sirim chairman Datuk Mohd Noordin Hassan at a dinner commemorating Sirim's 15th anniversary in Kuala Lumpur last night.

Last month, Malaysia was nominated to sit on the International Standards Organisation (ISO) council for a three-year term starting this month. Malaysia has been a member of the ISO, which is the highest international standards body responsible for all international standards and policy decisions and technical work since 1969, he said.

Malaysia has also been accepted as a member of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) last November. The IEC, which has 40 member nations from the developed world, is a body responsible for preparing international standards for the electronics and telecommunications industries, he said.