

Watching with a very keen woodworker's eye

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, a keen woodworker, admiring the wooden steps made by one of the participants in the junior category of the wood working event in the 1992 National Skills Competition yesterday.

The competition was held at the Maktab Perguruan Teknik Cheras.

The Prime Minister spent over 90 minutes touring the booths of the 767 participants who had their entries on display which ranged from brick-laying to automobile repair.

Dr Mahathir was presented with a power drill at one of the exhibition booths.

It was no ordinary power drill. Bosch, the German machine tool maker, had proudly displayed its computerised version that had yet to be marketed in the country.

It is made for precision and can be pre-set for work-

ing on wood or other materials.

The computerised power tool will take care of the right speed and strength of drilling.

According to Leong Meng Nam, who demonstrated the drill, its price tag had yet to be fixed.

"The Prime Minister will be the first one to use it in the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir presented the Golden Hand Award to winners in 14 events in the National Skills Championship.

The first place winner in the open category in each event received the Golden Hand Award and \$5,000 while, first and second runners-up received \$4,000 and \$3,000 respectively.

Winners in the junior category received \$2,000 while second and third place winners received \$1,000 and \$500 respectively.

There were no winners in

the open category for the plastering, furniture making and general mechanics events.

Placed third in the junior category of the women's tailoring event was Ahmad Zamri Abdul Wahid from Kuala Kangsar, who is not only the sole male competitor in that category but also the youngest.

Also placed third in the open category of the general machining event is Dinggan A.K. Durai of Johor, who could be considered a veteran in the competition as this was the second time he had participated.

Winner in the open category of the arc welding event, Azizan Hassan, 33, said he was overjoyed at his success and had least expected to win.

A fitter with the National Padi and Rice Authority (LPN), he said, he was going to hold a kenduri for his friends.

DISK 1251