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Mahathir - skills

(pix)

SKILLED MALAYSIAN WORKERS SHOULD AIM TO BECOME WORLD CHAMPIONS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 16⁹³ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged skilled workers to further develop their talents and become world champions in the field of skills.

He said Malaysia's 16th position among 24 countries which took part in the International Youth Skill Olympics in Taipei, Taiwan last July proved that Malaysian workers were comparable to the skilled workers from other countries.

In the competition in which Malaysia took part for the first time, three representatives from Malaysia achieved a higher place than participants from Canada, Finland, New Zealand, Thailand, South Africa and Portugal and was one step lower than the United States.

Handing over the National Skills 1993 "Anugerah Tangan Emas", the Prime Minister expressed confidence that Malaysian workers would live up to that expectation.

He also advised those who lost in the national skills competition not to lose heart but to strive to improve upon their skills.

In line with Malaysia's efforts to achieve developed status, everyone should be efficient and skilled in carrying out their daily duties be they businessmen, administrators or ordinary workers, he said. -- more

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Earlier, Deputy Works Minister Kerk Choo Ping, in his capacity as chairman of the competition organising committee, said Malaysia had been invited to organise the first Asia and Pacific Skills Development Programme in 1995 here.

The decision of the Programme, which is under the ILO, to invite Malaysia to organise the event was in recognition of Malaysia's success in organising the national skills competition for four consecutive years, he said.

Malaysia had also been invited to become a member of the International Youth Olympic Skills Committee this year in recognition of its efforts to improve the skills of its workers through the competition, he said.

He said this year's national level competition had attracted some 771 participants compared to 452 in 1991.

Kerk said improved technical skills were necessary for Malaysia and this could be achieved by training more people in the various skills. -- more

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Kerk also felt there should be a review of the system of education and vocational training in Malaysia by making comparisons to such systems in Germany, Japan and Taiwan.

In those places, greater emphasis was placed on vocational and technical training compared to academic education.

"For instance, last year Taiwan which had a population similar in size to that of Malaysia had 850,000 students in the vocational and technical streams."

In Malaysia only 80,000 students were in such streams, he said.

In the team events Syarikat Cycle and Carriage Bintang Berhad won in the motor mechanics category and Syarikat Siah Brothers Trading Sdn Bhd in the field of construction. -- Bernama

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