

PM: Skilled workers must strive to

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. Skilled workers must strive to improve themselves until they achieve excellence in the fields they pursue! Prime Minister **Datuk Seri** Dr Mahathir **Mohamad** said today.

He said Malaysians who sought to acquire vocational and technical skills might initially find those areas

complex and difficult. "We must not be dejected but should strive to succeed and this is necessary if Malaysia is to attain the status of an industrialised and developed nation," he said when presenting the Golden Hand awards in conjunction with the National Skills Championship.

He said Malaysians

should be efficient and productive if they wanted to compete with workers in other countries.

He said Malaysia achieved the 16th place in the International Youth Skills Olympics recently and added that he was confident that the youths would strive to be the champions in the years to come.

The three-day championship was divided into 14 categories such as brick-laying, plumbing, furniture-making, plastering, tiling, radio and television mechanics and motor mechanics.

A total of 64 youths received prizes in the different categories while nine companies received awards for team work.

improve until they achieve excellence

Also present were Works Minister **Datuk Leo Moggie**, Human Resources Minister **Datuk Lim Ah Lek**, Deputy Education Minister **Dr Fong Chan Onn** and Deputy Works Minister **Datuk Peter Tinggom**.

The championship was organised by the Works Ministry with the co-operation of the Master Builders Associ-

ation, Bumiputra Building Contractors Association of Malaysia and the New Straits Times Press(M) Bhd.

Deputy Works Minister **Kerk Choo Ting**, who is also the chairman of the organising committee, said the championship, the fourth of its kind, was meant to encourage workers to improve their skills.

He said the International Labour Organisation under The Asia and Pacific Skill Development Programme had invited Malaysia to host the Asean Skills Competition for the first time in the region.

He said Malaysia was also honoured to host the International Youth Skill Olympics earlier this year.

He said industrialisation was the foundation stone to achieving the objective of making Malaysia a developed country by the year 2020.

Kerk said the Government would continue to spend vast sums of money to build new technical training institutions and to upgrade existing ones.