

Nations must re-think rights and role in world, says Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the emergence of the New World Order has made it imperative for Asia, particularly small nations, to attempt to re-think and formulate their rights and roles as individual entities and as members of the international community.

He said individual nations would have to learn to solve

their problems imaginatively on their own.

"But in respect of regional world problems, we will have to pool our resources and work in harmony with one another to overcome them.

"Undoubtedly, there is a need to develop a revitalised international and global consciousness. We need a new conscience for humanity in the New World Order.

"This conscience has to be kinder, gentler and much more tolerant," Dr Mahathir said in his message in the souvenir programme in conjunction with the opening of the two-day international symposium, "Asia in the 21st Century", organised by the Writers' Academy beginning here today.

"For this to take place, we have to explore new ways of thinking about ourselves

and others. The onus is on us," he said.

He said the 21st century would present all kinds of new challenges to humanity — political, religious, economic, cultural, scientific and technological.

He said there would be no simple solutions.

However, he said the future of Asia depended very much on how Asians themselves wanted it to be.