

▼07/06/12-35MST

CNS3557

R GE 07-06 00172 EA984

aae tbe

Mahathir-Technology

M'STA NEEDS AN INVENTIVE COMMUNITY, SAYS MAHATHIR

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, June 7<sup>94</sup> (Bernama) -- Malaysia needs to create a community that is inventive to ensure that the country could also contribute to the world's scientific and technological wealth.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that this would also ensure that home-grown technology could make inroads into the international markets.

"In order to become a fully industrialised country, we cannot merely copy and emulate the progress achieved by the developed countries," he said when opening the National Students Living Skills and Design Expo 1994 here.

Efficiency in the field of technology and the capability to create new technology were vital if Malaysia wanted to achieve greater economic progress and maintain its economic competitiveness in the world market, he added.

To do so, development of a strong technological foundation to enhance the industrialisation process and economic growth was a pre-requisite. -- more

JO LDB

▼07/06/13-50MST

CNS3557

R GE 07-06 00202 EA985

aae tbe

Mahathir-Technology 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said although the government encouraged foreign technology transfer to the country, it continued to give emphasis to development of local technology as it was a critical factor which would enable Malaysia to take the competitive edge in the international arena.

"If Malaysia wishes to succeed as an industrialised country, scientists and technologists must quickly upgrade their expertise in order not only to receive, assimilate and adapt outside technology but also to produce local technology that is equal if not better than foreign technology," he added.

He reminded inventors and designers of the need to take into account that what they produced was not only marketable in Malaysia but globally.

The focus of strategy must be towards commercialisation of research or technological inventions with potential to meet market requirements, he said emphasising the need for scientists and technologists to give attention to "techno-entrepreneurship" as well as customer needs and an effective market strategy.

To promote greater interest in that field, he urged the younger generation to strive for academic excellence, particularly in subjects like mathematics, science and communications. -- more

JO LDB

▼07/06/14-08MST

CNS3593

R GE 07-06 00184 FA991

aae tbe

Mahathir-Technology 3 Kuala Lumpur

This was necessary because of the lower educational standard of the Malaysian labour force compared with developed countries like the United States, Japan and South Korea where the majority of students continued studies past the usual age.

Dr Mahathir said the success of those countries in industrialisation clearly depended on the number of students who continued their studies past the required age.

He urged the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help the Ministry of Education and other government agencies in efforts to promote and inculcate interest in invention among the younger generation.

The Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS) must also be more aggressive in helping young inventors improve themselves to make a mark on the international level, he said.

He commended local inventors for their success in winning gold awards at the 22nd International Exhibition for New Inventions and Techniques in Geneva, Switzerland, last April, which showed the capability of Malaysians to produce inventions that received international recognition. -- more

JO LDB

▼07/06/14-44MST

CNS3592

R GE 07-06 00166 FA990

aae tbe

Mahathir-Technology 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir called on the private sector to set up their own technical training institutes, like what was done by Mitsubishi in Japan, which had five such training centres.

This would be in line with government efforts to increase the countries pool of scientists and technologists involve in research and development up to a ratio of 1,000 for every million population by the year 2000 compared to the ratio of 400 per million population in 1989.

Dr Mahathir said the expo was in line with government efforts to instill in students and interest in living skills as well as science and technology besides enabling the ministry to assess the progress of students in those fields.

The basic knowledge and skills acquired by students through the expo would help prepare them to command any technology in the ever rapidly developing technological age, he added. -- Bernama

JO LDB