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PM expresses confidence in ability of Malaysians

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed confidence in the ability of Malaysians to learn and keep up with the latest industrial technologies.

Citing the ability of Malaysian workers to learn quickly and adapt to new skills and work concepts, Dr Mahathir said he was confident that these qualities would propel Malaysia to the desired level of industrialisation.

"I am happy, for example, to notice that the Malaysian small and medium sized industries have been capable in significantly reducing the import of industrial components from that sector within the past one year," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this at the launch of Interasia Fairs & Exhibitions Sdn Bhd and the signing of an agreement with Hannover Fairs Asia Pte Ltd for the organisation of two international exhibitions next year and another one in 1999.

He added that the staging of such exhibitions here was important because it would expose them to new products and technology which are needed for the country to industrialise.

The three international exhibitions are the Multimedia Information Technology 98, Malaysian Industrial Fair 98 and Automotive Technology Exhibition Malaysia 99.

The MIT 98 and MIF 98 will be held in October and December next year and ATEM 99 in June the following year.

According to IFE Sdn Bhd executive chairman Datuk Ibrahim Ali, the partnership with HFA Pte Ltd was aimed at turning Malaysia into the top venue for meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions.

"The organising of these exhibitions will be among our contribution towards the realisation of Malaysia's drive to be an industrialised country in 2020," he said.

HFA Pte Ltd is a member of the German based Deutsche Messe AG Group of Companies, responsible for organising some of the most important capital goods exhibitions in the world such as Hannover Messe, CeBit, EMO, ITMA, and IAA Commercial Vehicles.

Present at the launch at Nikko Hotel were DM-AG Group of Companies board chairman Dr Klaus Goehrmann and German ambassador Herald Nestroy.

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