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`Adopt automation in industrial production'

Sumitha Martin

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Automated modes of production which can replace labour-intensive processes must be introduced now, particularly in the manufacturing and industrial sectors, to enable the country to reap sustainable economic growth.

The Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology believes that now is the time for the Government to act in introducing such changes in production.

Explaining his conviction in the move for automation, MIGHT chief executive Dr Ahmed Tasir Lope Pihie said today:

"Now is the right time for companies and related agencies to start talking and implementing these changes."

Ahmed was speaking at a Press conference held at the Prime Minister's Department to announce the MIGHT Consultation dialogue on May 26 at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

He said the country's current economic situation should not be an excuse for postponing the move.

"We should make full use of the current situation so that when the economy recovers, we can ride on it," he added.

Science Adviser to the Prime Minister and MIGHT joint chairman Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, who chaired the Press conference, said the MIGHT Consultation dialogue had placed emphasis on automation in production because of the shortage of labour experienced by various industries.

Omar said the change in production had already been introduced in some industries, particularly the automotive industry.

The idea of promoting automation in industries was mooted early last year when MIGHT met with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for its annual briefing.

Omar said that while machines would replace labour-oriented modes of production, "knowledge workers" would be trained to operate such machines.

The MIGHT dialogue hopes to address obstacles faced by industries when adopting automation.

Entitled Enhancing National Productivity through Automation and Robotics, the one-day dialogue is jointly organised by MIGHT and a host of related agencies, notably, the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, the National Productivity Centre and the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia.

Companies interested in participating in the dialogue may contact Yazli or Soza at 2945821/2945825 (fax) or e-mail [yazli@primenet.com.my](mailto:yazli@primenet.com.my)

Alternatively, enquiries can be directed to MIGHT's website at [www.primenet.com.my](http://www.primenet.com.my)

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