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Co-operating with Aussies in building and property sector

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Malaysia will work with Australia to develop the building and property industry in this country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Prime Minister said the development would fit the technological demand of an Information Age economy.

Dr Mahathir said this in the programme book for participants of the first Malaysia-Australia building industry convention, INTAbuild Malaysia 1998, at Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel.

The convention was organised by the Housing Industry Association of Australia and the Housing Developers Association of Malaysia.

The Prime Minister said technology was the backbone of Malaysia's development, where opportunities arising from the Multimedia Super Corridor were tremendous with great impact on the infrastructure sector.

He said the convention was a premier event for Malaysians and Australians in the industry to interact and forge new strategic alliances.

The industries include property, construction, engineering, architecture, industrial technology, products and business development.

"Let this be one that will bring together the experts to deliberate upon strategies to further develop the building and property industry," he said.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard, in his statement in the programme book, said the convention provided an excellent vehicle for Malaysian and Australian companies to share information on new building systems, products, and processes.

He said the Australian Government was committed to the development of efficient and innovative industries, including the building and construction sector, which had increasingly become a global industry.

The four-day convention was attended by some 1,300 Malaysian and Australian home-builders.

It ended tonight with a dinner attended by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah.

At the dinner, a representative of the Australian home-builders told the New Straits Times that Australians were keen to work with their Malaysian counterparts to build houses, including low-cost ones, in Malaysia.

Housing Industry Association Limited communications manager Kevin Randall said participants were eager to participate in the industry in Malaysia.

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