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Malaysia to offer best in education

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BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Thurs. - Malaysia is in the process of building a world class education system that is flexible and innovative in order to keep abreast with the increasingly borderless world.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia was taking this course because the progress and development of society depended very much upon education.

"As we approach the new millennium, the challenges faced by developing societies to catch up with developed ones in areas of information and knowledge creation and their utilisation for the benefit of society becomes more formidable.

"In order to create a level playing field where all nations and societies can perform at least equitably in the development of a just and progressive world, we must focus earnestly on the development of education," Dr Mahathir said.

He said this in his message in the souvenir programme for the two-day "Malaysian Education Exhibition '98" which was launched here today.

The roadshow, which was held at the International Convention Centre, was launched by Brunei Education Minister Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Datuk Abdul Aziz Umar. Among those present at the function was Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's attempts at educational reforms over the years had gained momentum.

Malaysia, he added, had been able to develop a system unique to its own needs and requirements.

This was achieved through "the dynamism of the public and private sectors", working in tandem with an international network of institutions of higher learning.

"In pursuit of our Prosper-Thy-Neighbour policy, we also hope to become a regional hub and share with our neighbours the progress we have attained," he said.

On the roadshow, Dr Mahathir said it formed part of Malaysia's efforts to bring development and prosperity to its neighbours through education.

"It is also aimed at bringing progress in education within the region and strengthening educational linkages with our Asean neighbours in particular, so that together we can face the challenges of the 21st century," he said.

This is the first time Malaysia has organised such a roadshow overseas to woo foreigners to study in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Najib said the roadshow would also tour other countries in the Asean region but its dates have not been fixed. Indonesia, he said, was most likely to be its next destination.

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