

27/02/2000

Focus on K-Economy

Abdul Razak Ahmad; P. Chandra Sagarani; Rosihan Zain
KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - 'K-Economy' or knowledge-based economy was the buzzword at today's Young Malay Professionals Congress attended by some 1,200 participants.

Congress spokesman Zahari Mohamed said the workshops were designed to highlight the various challenges faced by Malay professionals.

"Malay professionals must be made aware of these issues, so that they will not be left behind in the face of globalisation and the wave of communications and information technology sweeping over us.

"Several measures were outlined on the development of a generation of dynamic Malay entrepreneurs in the face of globalisation," he explained.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened the two-day congress jointly-organised by the Association of Ex-MRSM Students (ANSARA) and the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development.

The workshops were on Entrepreneurship; Education and Human Resource; Economy and Finance; Religion, Culture and Society, and High-Technology.

Each of the workshops featured prominent intellectuals and businessmen who presented papers on prevailing issues and the hurdles that needed to be overcome. Government policies were also discussed in light of these issues.

Far from being another high-brow discussion on policies, the workshops touched on real, practical problems and their solutions.

"The real thrust of K-Economy is on high-technology and this fact was stressed in the workshop," said Ahmad Najib Ariffin, a congress official.

The high-technology workshop for instance, he said, stressed the importance of patenting intellectual property, while urging technopreneurs to go beyond the general IT market and into developing sophisticated communications and information technology.

A surprising last-minute large turn-out was seen at the Religion, Culture and Society workshop. The workshop initially had the least number of participants who registered for it.

Meanwhile, the Education and Human Resource workshop tackled issues such as training for skilled-workers, while coming up with suggestions on overcoming the weaknesses of the education system.

The Economy and Finance workshop featured the father-and-daughter team of renowned academician Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz and Bank Negara deputy governor Datuk Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz.

Ungku Aziz chaired the discussion while Zeti presented a paper outlining the features influencing the economy, and issues pertaining to globalisation.

All the workshops are expected to have conclusions prepared, which will be translated into the congress' resolutions.

"The resolutions and findings will be publicised through our website. The congress is also considering compiling all relevant papers and documents and publishing them in book form."

He said the resolutions of the congress would be presented to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

(END)