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'Keep up with cyber era or be left behind'

LANGKAWI, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysians must master cyber technology or be left behind.

He said the nation had missed out on the industrial era in the initial stages but it now could not afford to ignore the cyber era.

With the advent of information technology and the borderless world, it was imperative for the nation to keep up with the development of the cyber era, he said when launching the 15th National Poetry Day organised by the National Writers Association of Malaysia (Gapena).

About 250 laureates from Singapore, Brunei, southern Thailand, Indonesia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Madagascar and Europe participated in the activities. The theme of the event was "Poets and the Cyber Era".

Meanwhile, writer/poet for more than 50 years, Ahmad Ariffin, 73, from Kedah, was named Gapena Poet 2000. Ahmad, who goes by the pen-name Afrini Adham, received the award from Dr Mahathir.

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