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Local motor industry to benefit from alliance

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COOPERATION between Toyota Motor Corporation of Japan and the Human Resources Ministry in advanced technology training will benefit the local motor vehicle industry.

Under the agreement signed by Toyota and the ministry in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, the company and its local joint-venture partner, UMW Toyota Motor Sdn Bhd, will work with the ministry to conduct a Toyota High-Tech Training Course at the Centre For Instructor and Advanced Skill Training (Ciast).

Toyota will provide instructors and furnish the cost of part of the training facilities at Ciast while UMW Toyota Motor will assist the implementation of the training courses.

The cost of bringing the trainers and equipment from Japan is about RM1 million.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn, who witnessed the signing ceremony, said the one-year agreement will expire in July next year, after which the ministry will discuss with the Japanese Government to extend the project.

"We want to train instructors from the ministry's Industrial Training Institute for the most advanced courses in automotive technology," he told a news conference after the signing of "Record of Discussions" for the Toyota Hi-Tech Training in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The signing marked the culmination of nine months of discussions and development of the training course package, following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's request to Toyota to assist Malaysia in the development of high-tech training during his visit to Japan in June last year.

The ministry's manpower department is in the process of bringing in equipment from Japan.

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