

PM urges women to master IT for progress

Nst. 23 FEB. 200

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Malaysian women must strive towards mastering information technology as it will be useful especially in providing guidance to their children, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He added their ability to master IT was made more important as 40 per cent of the country's workforce was women.

"As mothers, women can guide and motivate their children in IT. Through the use of IT, they can also work part-time from home while taking care of their children," he said when opening the Women's Institute of Management (WIM) building in Taman Tun Dr Ismail.

Dr Mahathir also launched the WIM charity e-auction website and witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between WIM and International Medical Universiti on a special programme for Malaysian women.

Among those present were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Sharizat Jalil, WIM chairman Datuk Napsiah Omar and deputy chairman Datuk Dr Nellie Tan-Wong.

"If Malaysians, especially the women, fail to give proper attention to IT, they will be left behind not only in this country but in the international arena as well."

On the part of women, he said they must be more open and ready to seize available opportunities.

Dr Mahathir said the focus given by WIM on IT, like introducing its own online auction site, was timely. The move would not only gen-

erate revenue but also make WIM better known.

The Prime Minister said the Government would not neglect the welfare of women in the country.

Adequate attention was given because a progressive women population would also enhance the standard of living of their families.

Dr Mahathir praised WIM for

using locally-made products in the construction of the building, proving that such items were as good as imported ones.

This, he added, had contributed to the growth of local industries.

Later, Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah planted a tree to commemorate the opening.