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Mahathir-Language

JAPANESE STUDENTS LEARN ENGLISH TO ACQUIRE I.T. SKILLS

By: D.Arul Rajoo

OSAKA, Jan 19 (Bernama) -- Despite having excellent knowledge in technological aspects, Japanese students still strive to master the English language to acquire the necessary skills in the information technology era.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad discovered this when he visited the Media-Information Department of the Osaka Electro-Communication University.

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, observed students using computers to do animation and posed questions to them.

"Is it necessary to learn English to acquire skills in this (IT)?" Dr Mahathir asked one of the students.

"Definitely, I think we need English to handle multimedia communications," replied 25-year-old engineering graduate Shimizu Manabu.

The Prime Minister, who is here on a four-day working visit, also answered several questions from the students including on his impressions on the use of high-tech computers in classrooms.

"I have not seen something like this in Malaysia but I am quite sure we have it there. We can also learn some aspects from you," he said.

Dr Mahathir told the students about the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project, including the setting up of the Multimedia University in Cyberjaya and the investments by IT-related companies, both local and foreign.

Dr Mahathir, who was briefed by Dr Kuniya Fukuda, chairman of the Osaka university, also toured studios used by students to produce programmes.

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