

27 DEC 2001

LINKAGE BETWEEN REGIONS WILL ENHANCE GROWTH, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, Dec 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that linkage between the lesser-developed regions and the more developed ones would further enhance the exploration and exploitation of opportunities for growth.

Regions with excess capital and advanced technological know-how could combine with regions which have relatively cheaper labour costs and easily available land to jointly establish viable economic activities, he said in his foreword in the souvenir programme of the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Expo 2001, here, today.

"As the global market becomes increasingly competitive each day, it is essential for close economic cooperation to be maintained, especially in optimising the use of resources", he said.

Dr Mahathir said manufacturers from within the IMT-GT had enormous possibilities to harness the potential of a synergistic approach.

"Each region has been blessed with a distinct economic, social and agricultural character, thus offering considerable opportunities for joint-venture cooperation and investment", he said.

Dr Mahathir said the IMT-GT Agriculture and Fisheries Expo provided the opportunity for entrepreneurs from member countries to meet and exchange ideas.

"It is my hope that local entrepreneurs will take this opportunity to create networking and to establish economically viable cooperation with their counterparts from other regions", he said.

About 200 participants from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are taking part in the four-day expo organised by the Kedah government and the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department.

-- BERNAMA

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