

# Dr M advises our students

STAR 23 MAY 2002

## 'Acquire skills and knowledge to further develop nation'

By WONG SAI WAN

SEOUL: Malaysian youths, especially those studying overseas, being the future hope of the country must bear the responsibility of defending the nation's continued independence, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Speaking at a get-together session with 80 Malaysian students studying here last evening, Dr Mahathir pointed out that the only way they could protect the country's independence was by gaining as much knowledge and skill as possible to further develop the country when they return home.

The Prime Minister arrived here yesterday evening for a three-day official visit at the invitation of President Kim Daejung.

He said this was why the Government spent so much money on education for the young so that they would become capable of leading the

country to greater heights.

"I hope that you, the students, will feel responsible enough to take up this task," he said to the applause from them.

He pointed out that there was no greater show of patriotism and loyalty than for the students to study hard and acquire great knowledge and skill for the country.

He also said that he was glad that students in South Korea and Japan had not been instigated by certain quarters that were out to sow the seed of hatred against the Government.

"Unfortunately, there had been some students who were sent overseas by the Government but end up being instigated by others until they return home with the intention of overthrowing the Government by force. Luckily, these people were detected on time. Many of them came from poor families who would not have had the opportunity to study overseas

without the help of the Government.

"Instead of being grateful, they want to overthrow the Government using arms," he added.

Dr Mahathir said if the students worked hard, the country could achieve developed country status well before the 2020 deadline.

"The year 2020 is too long for someone like me. I might have gone to the other side by then but I would of course like to live to see Malaysia achieve developed nation status.

"Even if I am no longer around, I will be watching from up there. So you all better work hard or else ..." he quipped as the students gave him another applause.

Later, a group of students handed over a proposal to Dr Mahathir on how to further develop the MSC by promoting further use of the Internet.

The Prime Minister said he would look into the proposal and implement relevant suggestions.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar expressed confidence that Dr Mahathir's visit will not only help to strengthen bilateral trade and investment but mark the start-up of greater co-operation in high technology and ICT.

Speaking to Malaysian pressmen covering Dr Mahathir's visit here, he said the Prime Minister would also deliver a thank-you speech to South Korea for helping to make Malaysia's 19-year-old Look East Policy a success.

Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir would hold discussions with vehicle manufacturers, Kia and Hyundai, on how they could help to train Malaysian youths in high technology.

He said the Prime Minister would also touch on the right to fly here, currently five times a week, and fifth freedom right to enable Malaysia Airlines to fly to other destinations in South Korea.

Regional and global issues

would also be raised by Dr Mahathir in his meeting with President Kim and during the full discussion at the delegation level, he said.

Today, he will lay wreaths at the war memorial before meeting President Kim at the Blue House, followed by a discussion at delegation level.

At noon, Dr Mahathir will be entertained to a luncheon by the Korean Federation of Small and Medium Business, Federation of Korean Industries, Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Korea International Trade Association.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister will visit the Hyundai Motor Research and Development Centre in Gyeongido followed by a state banquet at the Blue House in the evening.

Meanwhile, the 106-member business delegation following Dr Mahathir will sign seven Memoranda of Understanding with their counterparts here for various joint venture projects.