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'Be prepared for knowledge era'

PETALING JAYA, Tues. - Malaysian companies are still at infancy stage of knowledge management and employee skills, and need to prepare for the knowledge era.

Deputy Human Resources Minister Dr Abdul Latiff Ahmad said this was because training at present is concerned with helping employees acquire specific knowledge, skills and the attitude.

He said as the successful transformation of the economy and realisation of Vision 2020 would largely depend on workers, training programmes should focus on producing knowledge workers.

"The right skills and expertise must be available to increase productivity of the new economy," he said when opening a two-day workshop on Managing Employment Relations at the Workplace, organised by Malaysia Airlines, in Kelana Jaya.

Latiff said the challenge to Malaysian companies is to produce an increasingly large pool of technical, scientific, industrial, managerial and entrepreneurial workforce.

The effectiveness of a company was largely dependent upon the effectiveness of its training programme.

Citing an example, he said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said in Brazil that South American and Asean countries could increase bilateral trade to hedge against the possibility of being dragged down by the countries of the North.

Malaysia has increased its trade with countries in the Middle East and East Asia.

"It is clear to me that the changing environment and re-alignments call for fresh thrusts in the way we do things," he said. Later, he visited the cabin services trainers, emergency evacuation training cabins, and the grooming and professional image laboratory at the academy.