

# Dr M: Time to change system

## Application-based education proposed

KUALA LUMPUR: The time has come for the country to amend the education system as the present one does not infuse the acquisition of knowledge with the application of the knowledge gained, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We have to change the system. The present system of acquiring knowledge alone is not enough. We need people to acquire knowledge and know how to apply this knowledge,"

he said.

"We need a system which would be a marriage of the two. We have to seriously think about this if we want to progress further."

He said this in his keynote address at the four-day 35th World Conference and Exhibition 2006 on Training and Development organised by the International Federation of Training and Development Organisations (IFTDO), at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre here

yesterday.

He said the British education system followed by Malaysia placed emphasis on gaining knowledge, while other education systems such as those practised in Japan and Germany not only stressed knowledge gain but also its application.

He said that in the early 1980s, the Government decided to start the "Look East" policy, emulating ideas from Japan but this policy was not widened to Malaysia's education system.



Dr Mahathir: "The present system of acquiring knowledge alone is not enough"

"The Japanese system not only teaches you about science and technology, it also tells you how to apply it," he said,

"We have to ask ourselves, do we want to continue using the British system or do we follow in the steps of countries like Japan and Germany." - Bernama