



STILL POPULAR: Dr Mahathir signing autographs for students who attended the Tunku Abdul Rahman Lecture yesterday.

Focus on R & D, says Dr Mahathir

PENANG, Wed. – Malaysians should focus on research and development in the acquisition of knowledge if they wish to market the country as an educational hub.

Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said a country with a high focus on R&D would be able to attract more overseas students.

"Our future depends on the knowledge we acquire and develop.

"And people must accept that by doing so, they have a duty to society and the nation," he, added.

He said Malaysians could be proud that the country, despite its diverse cultures, religions and races, had progressed well.

"Therefore, there is no reason why we cannot, achieve greater progress," said Dr Mahathir in his address at the The Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Lecture 2004 where he spoke on *Education and Excellence: Challenges for the 21st Century* here today.

He advised the younger generation to research and develop knowledge to ensure long-term development.