

Younger lot advised to constantly upgrade skills

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up medicine.

MOSCOW: Everything achieved by Malaysia in its 50 years of independence can easily be undone in just a few years if the younger generation is not globally competitive, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"The deadline for Vision 2020 is just 13 years away. We will become a developed nation by then but we must not be complacent after that.

"In just a couple of years, we can end up as the worst of the developed nations in the world if we do not constantly upgrade ourselves," he said during a meeting with 300 Malaysian students in Russia on Tuesday night.

There are over 2,000 Malaysians studying in five institutions here. Most are taking

Abdullah also told his young audience that his generation was hard at work to build the country, not for themselves but for the generations to come.

"We are working for you. The country is yours to inherit but you must in turn work hard and gain all the knowledge possible so that all of you can take the country to greater heights," he added.

Abdullah said one of the biggest challenges facing the country was creating enough talented knowledge workers "who could value-add to the country."

"This is why we send our students overseas to study. There are so many of you and not enough places in universities back home."