

Najib: Aim to be global players

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MALAYSIAN professionals working overseas are proof that globalisation can be an advantage to those with the proper skills and discipline, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

He said the migration of skilled labour across the borders showed how globalisation was not just about breaking down barriers to the free flow of goods and services, but also about information and people.

"If we understand this, then we know where and how to position ourselves," Najib said at a dinner hosted by Malaysian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Datuk Dr Ismail Ibrahim, here on Wednesday night.

Earlier, Ismail said in his speech that Malaysians employed in Saudi Arabia com-

prised professionals in high-paying jobs such as pilots, nurses, doctors and lecturers, and in the banking and oil and gas sectors.

"When we move up the value chain, we get recognition, which I have seen in Saudi Arabia and other countries," said Najib, who was on a seven-day working visit to the kingdom until yesterday.

He said recognition of Malaysia's capabilities was the reason its companies were chosen to help other countries in their economic development. Najib cited as examples the various construction and information technology projects in Saudi Arabia that involved Malaysian participation.

In addition, the Riyadh Open University, which will be opened soon, was modelled after and set up with the help of the Malaysian Open University.

Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry chairman Abdul Rahman A. Al-Jeraisy, during a closed-door meeting with Najib on Wednesday evening, had also expressed inter-

est in a joint venture with Malaysian firms to develop a commercial centre on a 10.1ha site in the city.

"We must continue to look outward and aim to be a major global player. Don't just focus on the internal economy, but also the external economy, because our market is relatively small."



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