

# PM: Human capital growth key to nation's success

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DATUK Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday paid tribute to all Malaysians, describing them as the country's greatest asset and key to building a more prosperous nation.

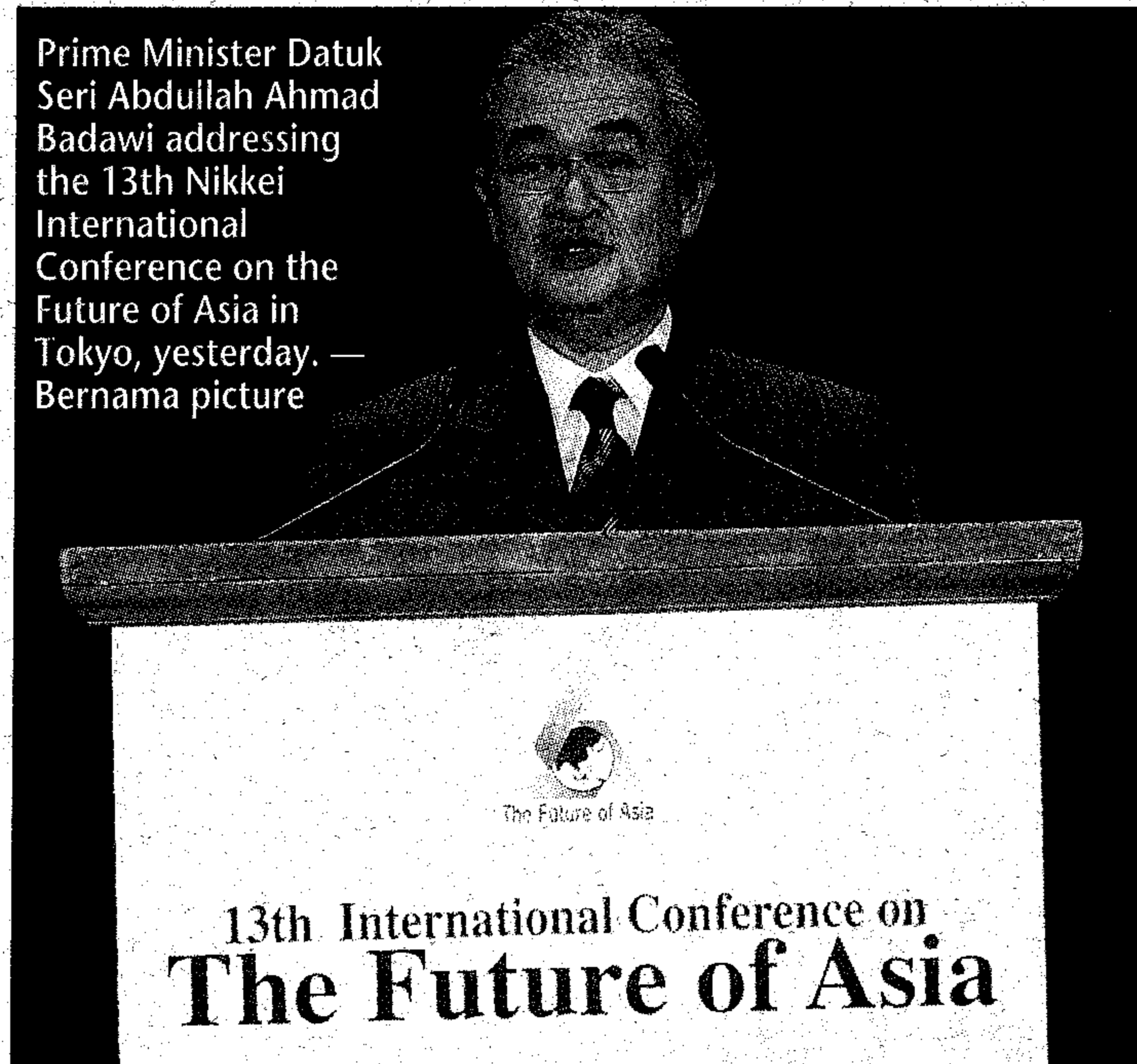
Describing the road ahead for the country as "an enormously challenging one", the prime minister said the path to Malaysia's future lay firmly in development — specifically human capital development.

"There are structural adjustments that we need to make but we will continue to give special attention to our people who are left behind.

"Our people are our most precious asset. They are the key to the building of a more prosperous nation," he said in his keynote address titled "Deepening co-operation towards a true community" at the start of the two-day 13th Nikkei International Conference on the Future of Asia here.

"We are aware that we cannot

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi addressing the 13th Nikkei International Conference on the Future of Asia in Tokyo, yesterday. — Bernama picture



## 13th International Conference on **The Future of Asia**

continue doing the same things and expect the same results. We know that we have to raise our game by more than a few notches. We have, in fact, to break new ground."

The prime minister, who is on a five-day working visit to Japan, also said Malaysians would have to respond more effectively to the

forces of globalisation, market liberalisation and increased competition.

He added, however, that the government did not see greater protection and protectionism as the solution to globalisation.

This was Abdullah's fourth address at the conference, organised by the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*

newspaper. The conference also saw the participation of Philippine President Gloria Arroyo, Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla and Singapore's Minister Mentor, Lee Kuan Yew. The *New Straits Times* is one of the media partners of the conference.

In his address, Abdullah also encapsulated Malaysia's strategies based on the Ninth Malaysia Plan namely, moving the economy up the value chain; raising the capacity for knowledge and innovation; nurturing a first-class mentality; addressing persistent socio-economic inequalities constructively and productively; improving the standard and sustainability of the quality of life; and, strengthening institutional and implementation of capacity.

At the same time, the prime minister said Malaysia aspired to be a good role model and a constructive player in the Muslim world as well as in the larger international community.

"I see my mission in the Muslim world, both as the leader of a member country as well as the current summit chair of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, as one of restoring the centrality of the development of the human person to the Muslim agenda."