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Dr M: Expose kids to robotics

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PUTRAJAYA: Parents and teachers must help children to improve their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (Stem) and expose them to robotics.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this after launching Robot Day at the Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre in Cyberjaya yesterday.

"In terms of robotic skills, Malaysia lags far behind other developing countries.

"There has been greater awareness about the importance of having knowledge in robot programming and engineering, but our robotics industry has yet to reach an advanced level like that of Japan.

"This is because not many are involved in manufacturing and operating robots. It is crucial to expand our robotics field so that Malaysia can



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad watching a Nao Robot dance at the launch of Robot Day at the Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre in Cyberjaya yesterday. Pic by Ahmad Irham Mohd Noor

become a fully developed nation.

"Besides knowing about robots, youngsters should know how to operate them and, most importantly, how to programme them.

"Even when manufacturing a car, we need to use robots to operate the engines and machines. The person must know how to programme a ma-

chine and cannot make any mistake."

He said if more children were equipped with robotic skills, this could help Malaysia to develop its robotics industry.

The one-day event was organised by DreamEDGE, which aims to expose youngsters to Stem knowledge

using educational robotics products.

There were workshops on how to assemble robots, programming, creating projects, presentation skills and exploring new technology and skills. More than 150 kindergarten kids, schoolchildren and university students took part.