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Focus on four major areas, PM tells universities

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PEKAN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak yesterday outlined four major focus areas to be mastered by local universities to help Malaysia achieve its goal of becoming a fully developed country.

The four focus areas are innovation, entrepreneurship, language proficiency, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills.

Najib said mastering these four areas would allow Malaysia to be more competitive, as was the case with the United States.

"I just came back from the US, visited Silicon Valley, Stanford University and Apple, and met with President (Barack) Obama and other Asean leaders. From the meetings, (I realise) we have to master a culture of innovation. The ability to innovate must be nurtured and encouraged.

"As such, I now urge all universities, including Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), to develop a culture of innovation

and entrepreneurship," he said when opening the UMP main campus here.

Najib also said he would ensure that UMP, along with Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Universiti Teknikal Melaka and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn in Batu Pahat would remain as technical universities.

"Do not create new faculties other than (those offering) technical education. This will be our policy."

Earlier, when speaking at the opening of the DRB-Hicom University of Automotive Malaysia (DHU), Najib said DHU is a complement to the education field, besides meeting the needs of the automotive industry.

The prime minister said DRB-Hicom's initiative to set up the first such university in the Asean region with a big fund of RM350 million for the first phase of its development should be commended. - Bernama



BERNAMAPIX

Tengku Mahkota of Pahang, Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, plants a sapling to symbolise the launch of DRB-Hicom University of Automotive Malaysia, as Najib looks on. Accompanying them is DRB-Hicom group MD Tan Sri Mohd Khamil Jamil.