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Embrace digital economy, says Najib

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> Public urged to move forward with changes or risk seeing country left behind

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak wants every Malaysian to be active participants as the country moves towards embracing the digital economy.

He acknowledged that a fourth global industrial revolution was in the making, with the digital economy set to replace the conventional economy in the near future.

He said the public should move forward with the changes or risk seeing the country get left behind.

"I want every citizen to not only be a spectator, but become active participants in what is to be the era of the fourth industrial revolution.

"If we don't move with changes, we could end up extinct like the dinosaurs," he

said during a dialogue session at the 2016 Daya eUsahawan Conference here yesterday.

The eUsahawan programme was launched in November last year by the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) to inspire and provide exposure to local entrepreneurs to embrace and maximise digital entrepreneurship.

Najib said when the eUsahawan programme was first proposed to him, he approved it willingly, knowing that the e-commerce sector could provide hefty returns.

"In the digital economy, it's not strange to achieve 50% profit gain in a month. No other forms of economy can achieve that, which is why I supported it," he said.

On another matter, Najib congratulated Donald Trump for his presidential victory and said he was convinced economic partnerships with the United States will remain strong.

He said the victory also showed that Americans wanted to break from their conventional ways of voting for a known politician and their openness to seeing changes.

Stressing that media commentators have been proven wrong and the results anticipated by experts have been overturned, Najib said Trump's success in the polls showed politicians should never take voters for granted.

"The world has watched this year's presidential election with fascination. Opinion polls and established political figures all underestimated the strength of his support.

"His appeal to Americans who have been left behind - those who want to see their government more focused on their interests and welfare, and less embroiled in foreign interventions that proved to be against US interests - have won Mr Trump the White House," he said.

Najib also expressed hope of meeting Trump and continuing the warm relationship between both countries.

"In 2014 the US and Malaysia elevated our relationship to a comprehensive partnership, and we are firm allies in the global fight against terrorism and extremism. We look forward to continuing this partnership under President-elect Trump," he said.