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# Look abroad, PM tells digital firms

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## MUTUAL BENEFIT:

Cooperation will help Malaysia become a high-income nation, says Najib

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has urged the local digital sector to work with global technology communities, particularly China, to realise the government's aspiration for Malaysia to become a high-income nation.

Najib said he encouraged the collaboration and cooperation in this sector for the mutual benefit of Malaysia and China.

Delivering the keynote speech at the opening of the Huawei Innovation Hub and Malaysia-China Digital Economy Forum here yesterday, he cited numerous advances made by China that had propelled its growth in the digital sector.

"To achieve all of the goals we have outlined for our country and people in this sector, we need to work with the tech communities from around the world.

"Indeed, we have much to learn from the advances that China has

made in growing and developing its own Internet technology space."

He said it was imperative for the local digital sector to provide Malaysians with world-class network infrastructure and superfast connectivity, besides boosting development of industries.

"Through Malaysia's High-Speed Broadband plan, we have achieved close to 70 per cent Internet penetration.

"While we continue to improve access in Sabah and Sarawak, we also need to improve access and connectivity for the rest of the country.

"The potential is limitless. All that is required is our willingness and readiness to explore opportunities."

He said to assist the local digital industry, the government would establish Malaysia Digital Hubs next year for start-ups to share their passion with other members in a broader start-up ecosystem.

Najib said the endeavour would be made possible through multiple collaborations between the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation and the private sector.

"One of the key achievements for 2017 that I look forward to seeing is the establishment of a new category of certified locations, called the Malaysia Digital Hubs, for the start-up community.

"Be it a warehouse concept, a space within a building or a campus-like environment, these hubs are where unstructured interactions occur, ideas collide and innovations happen."

He said Malaysia Digital Hubs would offer unique value proposi-



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** checking out a Huawei mobile phone during the launch of the **Huawei Customer Solution Integration and Innovation Experience Centre** in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Yazit Razali

tions, such as global hyper-speed broadband, hot-desking, mentoring and coaching services.

As an additional measure to attract world-class mentors and coaches who may invest and set up businesses in the country, Najib said Malaysia would introduce a new category of workforce called "Tech Foreign Knowledge Workers" to ensure their seamless entry into Malaysia.

Najib earlier launched the Huawei

Customer Solution Integration and Innovation Experience Centre (CSIC).

Located at Integra Tower, The Intermark, here, CSIC was designed as an ICT innovation hub to drive the industry's open ecosystem and accelerate digital economy transformation in Malaysia.

Covering 13,000 sq ft, CSIC aggregates over 120 reference applications and services globally, while Huawei's customers and partners

can use the platform to design and test technology solutions, verify new business models and nurture innovation applications and services for the public and private sectors.

Present was Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, whose ministry would collaborate with Huawei to select 300 local public university and polytechnic students to attend programmes and workshops held at CSIC annually.