

# PM: UPSKILL YOUNG WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY

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We want to be a country that can use modern tech to its advantage, says Dr M

BUSAN

**P**RIME Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government intends to make Malaysia part of the new industrial revolution.

For this purpose, more people, especially those from the younger generation, would have to be ed-



**KHAIDIR  
A. MAJID**

ucated "with the new ways of doing things, strategies and technologies", he said yesterday.

"Of course, now, we are left behind, but we want to catch up with other countries.

"We want to be a country that

can use modern technology to its advantage," he said at the Asean-Republic of Korea CEO Dialogue here, a gathering of mostly chief executive officers of major South Korean companies.

"Obviously it is new technology that Malaysia must acquire. If we are left behind, we will never catch up."

Yoon Sung Woon of Bain and Company conducted the question-and-answer session with Dr Mahathir.

Yoon, the local partner of the global management firm, focused his queries on policy changes brought about by the Pakatan Harapan government,

as well as the transformation plan in Malaysia.

South Korea was recognised as the world's most innovative economy under Bloomberg's Annual Innovation Index 2019 and Malaysia was seeking to benefit from the East Asian country's experience.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia remained friendly to investors and some of the old policies on investment and trade were relevant today.

"We are a new government, but it is led by a leader of the old government," he quipped to a loud laughter of the full-house hall.

What was different, Dr Mahathir said, was that the government was tougher in combating corruption and financial mismanagement.

"From foreign investors' standpoint, not much has changed. We are still very friendly."

The CEO Dialogue session, organised by the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was held in conjunction with the two-day Asean-ROK Summit, which

kicked-off yesterday with a leaders' welcoming dinner.

Later, Dr Mahathir visited the Malaysian Pavilion at the Asean Invest Exhibition at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Centre, which is also the summit venue.

Dr Mahathir was briefed by Malaysian exhibitor Usaha Strategik Sdn Bhd (USSB), which produces biomass pellets from empty oil palm fruit bunch.

Its executive director, Za'im Hadi Meskam, said Dr Mahathir was interested to know how the local company developed the product.

USSB initially collaborated with a German company to acquire the technology to produce energy pellets from biowaste. But it later switched to a technology partner from China.

"About 60 per cent of the technology is developed locally and our product now is used by a company operating an industrial boiler in Johor," he said.

Za'im said he had received enquiries from India and Myanmar during the exhibition.