



APPRECIATION: Dr Mahathir receiving a souvenir from Zamri Abbas, president of the Alumni of Korean Institutional Graduates (Agiko).

NBT - 19/4/2004, m/s: 6

Dr M in favour of varsity link with S. Korea

CYBERJAYA, Sun. — The man behind Malaysia's Look East Policy, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said a Malaysian-Korean university should be set up here to enable a transfer of technology and knowledge and dissemination of Korean work ethics and culture.

He agreed with the idea of setting up a Korea-Malaysia Technical Institute, which was proposed by the Alumni of Korean Institutional Graduates (Agiko), Malaysians who studied in South Korea under the Look East Policy.

"More than gaining knowledge, Malaysians will be able to learn the work ethics of South Koreans who are hardworking and willing to make sacrifices to see their country achieve rapid development after the war," he said at a dinner hosted by the alumni in his honour, which Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamad Hassan also attended.

The former Prime Minister said the Government had decided that countries such as Japan and South Korea were better places to send Malaysians for training as these nations had shown great resolve in rehabilitating themselves after World War II.

"If we look to the West we will not succeed. The West has become so successful and so rich that it has become lazy. Some countries have even reduced their working hours to 35 hours a week."

He said Malaysians ought to learn from the Japanese and Koreans who were disciplined, hardworking and loyal to their companies. "With these values they reached such a level of success that they beat even the West."

Agiko has proposed that the technical institute be located in Negri Sembilan as most Korean investors are situated in the State.