

**Malaysians abroad assets to country, says DPM**  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysians who migrate are not unpatriotic, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Instead, he said, they were assets to the country, which the government would like to work with and woo them to return home.

"They are assets who we do not want to alienate.

"We would like to cooperate with them and entice them to return in the near future.

"This is reflected through the formation of Talent Corp, a government body with a mandate to bring back our diaspora through programmes and incentives," he said in his speech at the Education Nation Conference 2011 yesterday.

Muhyiddin, who is also the education minister, said the government wanted to cooperate with Malaysians abroad by keeping an open channel via its embassies.

He said engaging them in investment promotion missions, while using their local know-how, would benefit the government.

He said Malaysians abroad could also promote the country to investors, tourists and students of higher learning.

"As I mentioned during my dialogue with Malaysian students in London, with commitment from all parties, those abroad can play a pivotal role in the nation's transformation in the most meaningful, fair and sustainable manner."

He said no one should shy away from the fact that the government appreciated guidance and help from the global talent pool.

He said high-tech industries, petrochemical, biotechnology and fields of information technology, medicine and strategic management still required talent from abroad

"This should not be viewed as a regression of our national capacity but, rather, as an addition to the local talent pool.

"We can get knowledge and expertise, and promote transfer of technology from these individuals.

"I am convinced this will go a long way to boost the country beyond even what our forefathers had envisioned."

He said Malaysia aspired to attract at least 200,000 international students by 2020.

Later, when launching Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur's one-stop heart centre, Muhyiddin called on the healthcare industry to make Malaysia a preferred destination for medical tourists.

He said the country had the facilities, equipment, skills and cost advantage to be a top medical tourism destination.

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