

**Concentration Of Development To Benefit Malaysia In Long Run**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- The concentration of development activities in strategic areas would benefit Malaysia's overall development in the long run, an economist said.

Washington DC Carnegie Endowment senior associate, Dr Yukon Huong said rather than having a widespread development nationwide, Malaysia should focus its development in certain locations, which would boost urbanisation and the concentration of skilled workers.

"You have to concentrate your resources so that you can build your country based on skills and specialisation," he told reporters at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia (ISIS) conference here.

Compared to neighbouring countries such as Singapore and Thailand, he said Malaysia has the lowest concentration rate.

The concentration of development could also reduce the country's expenditure in providing public transportation, he added.

"It is very expensive to provide good urban transport system for a population which is spread out," he said.

Asked whether Malaysia could achieve its target in becoming a developed nation by 2020, Huong said the country is on track to realise the ambition but needs to improve its tax structure to fund development.

In addition, Malaysia has to reduce its dependency on petroleum as the main source of income as the natural resource would deplete.

The one-day ISIS conference, themed "The China Conundrum and Implications for Southeast Asia", discussed the impact of China's rapid development and how other countries can emulate the country's development model.

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