

**Education Most Powerful Instrument In Facing Challenges - Muhyiddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin described education as the most powerful instrument to bring about the change needed towards producing citizens capable of facing present and future challenges.

"And leaders capable of making the best decisions for global well-being," he said during the opening of the second 2012 Malaysia United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) Day, here Saturday.

Also present at the event were Information Communication and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Rais Yatim, Minister in Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Education Deputy Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong and Unesco representative Dr Hubert J.Gijzen, who is also the director of the Unesco office in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said with the occurrence of increasing conflicts worldwide, present education systems must equip future generations with the highest skills and enable them to appreciate a peaceful, harmonious and quality life.

Although Malaysia was on the right track to achieve Education For All by 2015, the national education system should nevertheless move in tandem with the country's aspirations and compete with other countries who continuously improved theirs, he said.

"Malaysia has taken steps to review its national education system since Oct 2011, by preparing the Preliminary Report on the National Education Blueprint 2013-2025, which was launched by the Prime Minister on Sept 11 2012, in order to face the challenges in the competitive 21st century global environment, " he added.

Muhyiddin said the report was the result of a comprehensive effort and included the views of local and overseas independent panels, as well as education experts from Unesco.

Touching upon Malaysia's membership in Unesco, he said Malaysia held seats in the International Bureau of Education (IBE) and International Oceanographic Commission, and for the first time had been selected as a member of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) from 2012 to 2015.

"WHC is one of Unesco's most prestigious committees which is responsible for evaluating and approving world heritage site nominations," he said.

The two-day Malaysia Unesco Day includes various exhibitions and performances and is being held at the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) park.

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